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Rain Over Paradise
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7SEEDS

28

セブンシーズ

Yumi Tamura

田村由美

flowers Flower Comics α

TEAM SUMMER B
HOTARU KUSAKARI

SPIRITUALISTIC MEDIUM OF A BRANCH OF THE NIIGUSA FAMILY. SHE HAS A KEEN INTUITIVE POWER, AND SHE'S CHEERFUL.

TEAM SPRING
HIBARI NIIGUSA

SUCCESSOR OF THE HEAD FAMILY OF A LINEAGE OF SPIRITUALISTIC MEDIUMS. SHE'S A RELATIVE OF HOTARU'S.

TEAM SUMMER B
ARASHI AOTA

YOUNG MAN WITH A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE. HE'S ETERNALLY IN LOVE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, HANA.

TEAM SPRING
HANA SUGURONO

YOUNG WOMAN WHO'S WELL VERSED IN OUTDOOR SURVIVAL. SHE'S THE GIRLFRIEND OF ARASHI FROM TEAM SUMMER B.

TEAM SUMMER A
GENGORO

HE KNOWS WELL ABOUT THE BREEDING AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS. HE'S WARMHEARTED, AND HAS AN UNTIRING SPIRIT FOR RESEARCH.

TEAM SUMMER A
AYU

SHE'S AN EXPERT ON PLANTS. SHE'S STARTED TO CARE ABOUT ARAMAKI.

TEAM WINTER
TAKAHIRO ARAMAKI

FORMER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYER WHO'S BEEN WANDERING AROUND ON HIS OWN FOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS HE'S VERY SENSITIVE.

TEAM SUMMER B
NATSU IWASHIMIZU

A TIMID AND WELL-MANNERED GIRL. SHE'S AFRAID OF VOICING HER OWN OPINIONS.

TER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARA

flowers:
フラワーコミックスα

7 SEEDS (セブン シーズ) 28

ORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY

A HUGE METEORITE HAS COLLIDED WITH THE EARTH, AND THE HUMAN RACE WAS ELIMINATED. THE GOVERNMENT, WHO HAD FORESEEN THIS WORST CASE SCENARIO, TOOK A CERTAIN COUNTERMEASURE: PROJECT SEVEN SEEDS, FOR WHICH 5 TEAMS OF SEVEN TALENTED AND CAREFULLY SELECTED BOYS AND GIRLS WERE BUILT AND PUT INTO COLD SLEEP TO SECURE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE HUMAN RACE.

WHEN THE YOUNG PEOPLE AWOKE IN A WORLD IN THE FUTURE, THEY WERE EXPOSED TO A SEVERE ENVIRONMENT. AS THEY STRUGGLED FOR SURVIVAL, THEY WENT THROUGH PARTINGS FROM AND ENCOUNTERS WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

HANA, WHO'D BEEN SWEPT AWAY IN A RAPID STREAM AND MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED, MET FUJIKO AND CHISA AGAIN. ARAMAKI AND AYU, WHO'D SET OUT ON A JOURNEY TO SEARCH FOR HANA, ALSO JOINED THE GROUP. AFTER TSUNOMATA AND HIBARI RAN INTO HANA AND CREW, THE SEVEN OF THEM DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO HIBARI'S HOME, SADO ISLAND. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MIX OF TEAMS LANDED ON A SMALL ISLAND. TEAM SUMMER B HAPPENED TO FIND THEIR WAY TO SAID ISLAND, AS WELL. IT WAS KAGIJIMA, WHICH WAS CONNECTED WITH THE SHELTER ON SADO ISLAND, BUT THEY WERE SCATTERED UNDERGROUND, WHICH WAS INHABITED BY GIANT ANTS AND OTHER CREATURES, AND THEY ALL GOT CAUGHT IN PREDICAMENTS.
HANA AND THE OTHERS WHO'D CROSSED OVER TO SADO STARTED TO EXPLORE THE COMPLETELY CHANGED ISLAND. HANA AND ARAMAKI WERE TALKING WITH NATSU, WHO WAS CALLING FOR HELP FROM UNDERGROUND, THROUGH A CLEANING ROBOT WHICH HAD SUDDENLY APPEARED. BUT SHORTLY AFTER, THE CONNECTION WAS CUT...

7SEEDS (セブンシーズ)

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○ flowers Flower Comics α ○

人気絶好調 巻中カラー!!

7SEEDS

セブンシーズ

新世界冒険譚

山の章7【誘い】

コミックス最新27巻

7/10(火)ごろ発売決定!!!

田村由美

Yumi Tamura presents

Mountains Chapter 7

【—Temptation—】

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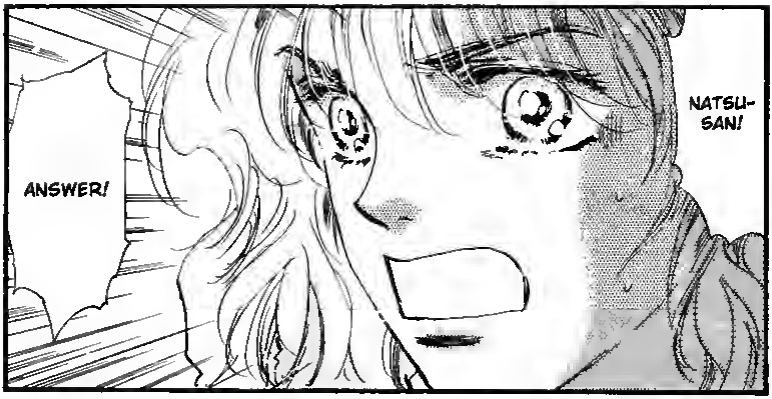
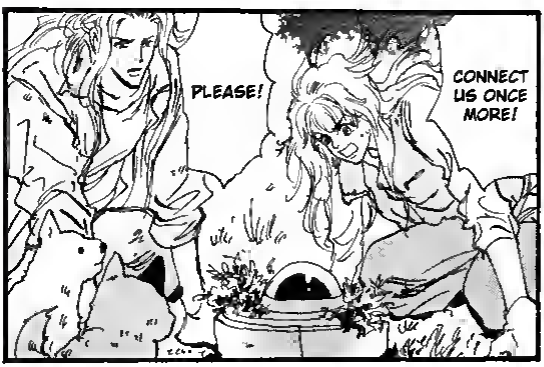
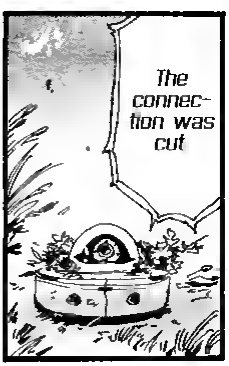
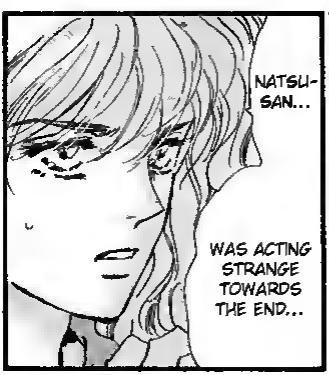
If Arashi-kun is safe.
I don't know...
Members of other teams went missing here too...

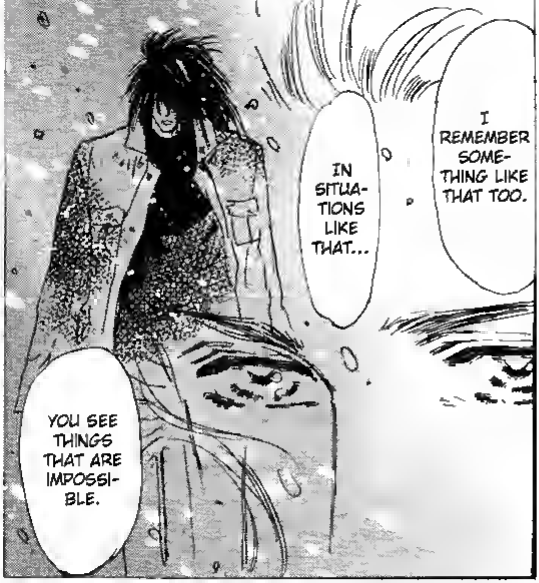

NATSU-SAN!
ANSWER!

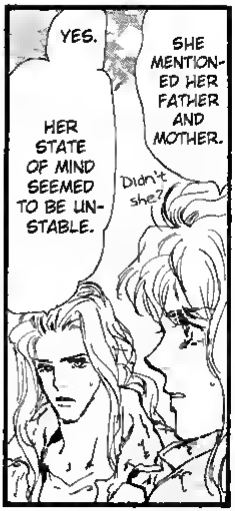

PLEASE!
CONNECT US ONCE MORE!


The connec-tion was cut

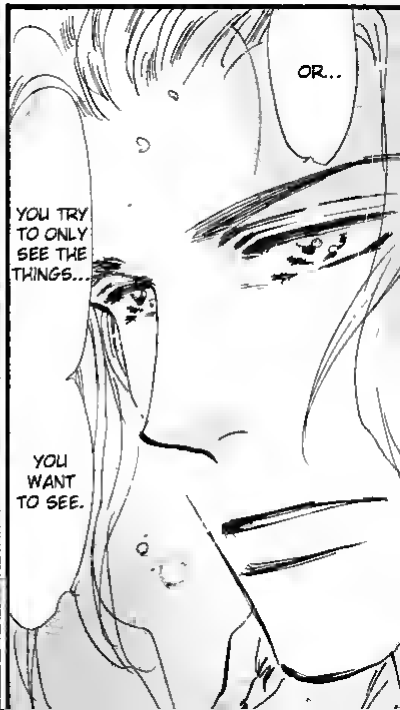

NATSU-SAN...
WAS ACTING STRANGE TOWARDS THE END...

I WONDER IF WE CAN DO IT FROM HERE.
We'd need a pass-word
BECAUSE WE'RE OUT-SIDERS
MAYBE THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION SOMEWHERE.

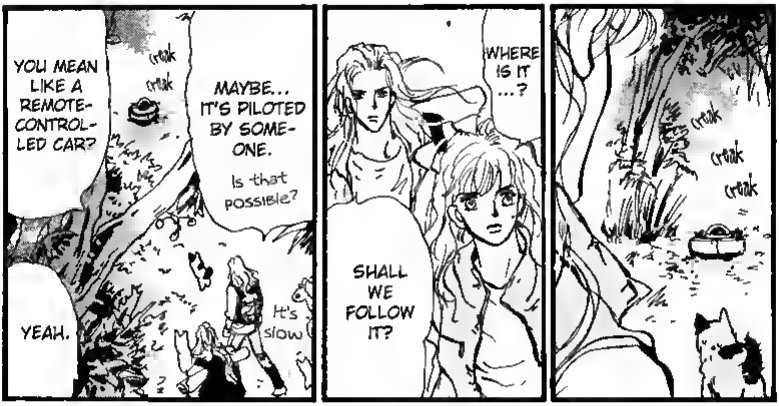

I REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT TOO.
IN SITUATIONS LIKE THAT...
YOU SEE THINGS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE.


YES.
SHE MENTIONED HER FATHER AND MOTHER.
HER STATE OF MIND SEEMED TO BE UNSTABLE.
Didn't she?

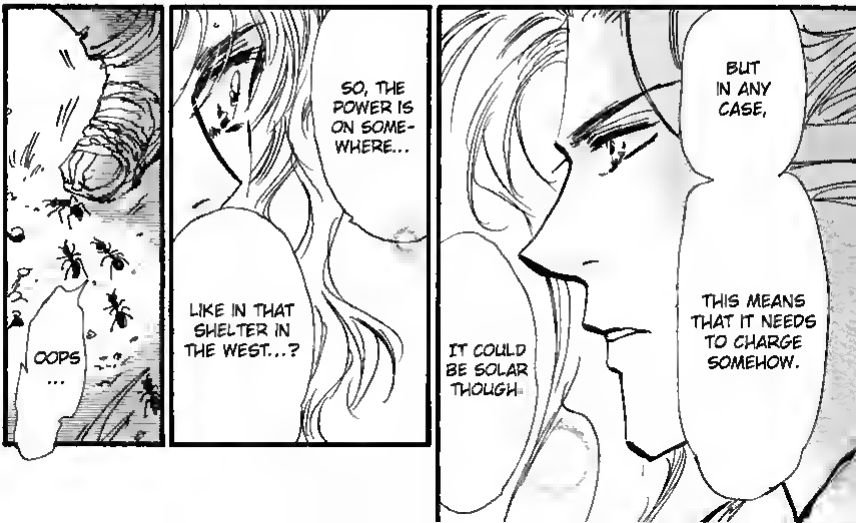
SHE SAID THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY WATER OR FOOD.
WE NEED TO FIND THEM QUICKLY.

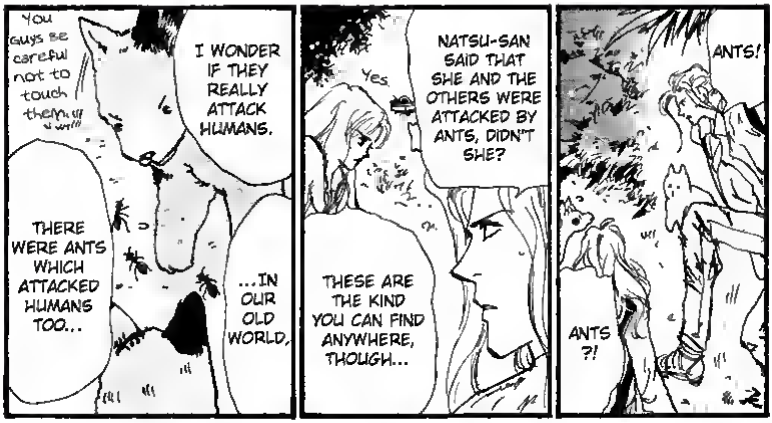

OR...
YOU TRY TO ONLY SEE THE THINGS...
YOU WANT TO SEE.

MAYBE ARASHI
HARU,
KURUMI-SAN AND RAN-SAN...
BUT HOW...?
ARE IN SIMILAR TROUBLE, AS WELL.
I'LL RESCUE THEM.
I'M GOING TO THEIR RESCUE.
clack
clack
clack
I need some hint
HANA-SAN IS REALLY AWE-SOME...
IN SITUA-TIONS LIKE THESE...


YOU MEAN LIKE A REMOTE-CONTROLLED CAR?
creak
creak
MAYBE... IT'S PILOTED BY SOMEONE.
Is that possible?
It's slow
YEAH.
WHERE IS IT ...?
SHALL WE FOLLOW IT?
creak
creak
creak

THEN, IT PROBABLY IS MOVING ON ITS OWN.
Aru from Area
What was it's name again?
IT ITSELF SAID THAT IT WAS A CLEANING ROBOT.


OOPS ...
SO, THE POWER IS ON SOMEWHERE...
LIKE IN THAT SHELTER IN THE WEST...?
IT COULD BE SOLAR THOUGH.
BUT IN ANY CASE,
THIS MEANS THAT IT NEEDS TO CHARGE SOMEHOW.


You guys be careful not to touch them.
I WONDER IF THEY REALLY ATTACK HUMANS.
THERE WERE ANTS WHICH ATTACKED HUMANS TOO...
...IN OUR OLD WORLD,
Yes
NATSU-SAN SAID THAT SHE AND THE OTHERS WERE ATTACKED BY ANTS, DIDN'T SHE?
THESE ARE THE KIND YOU CAN FIND ANYWHERE, THOUGH...
ANTS!
ANTS ?!

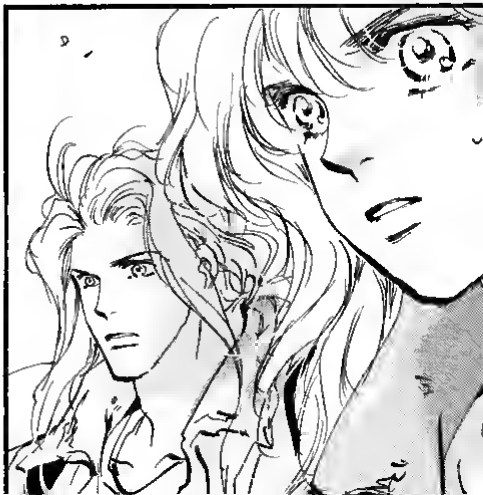
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME ALL ALONG.
AND YET OTHER BEASTS EAT THOSE ANIMALS.
THERE ARE ANIMALS WHICH EAT THOSE INSECTS
EAT SOME-THING
ANTS AS WELL AS OTHER INSECTS

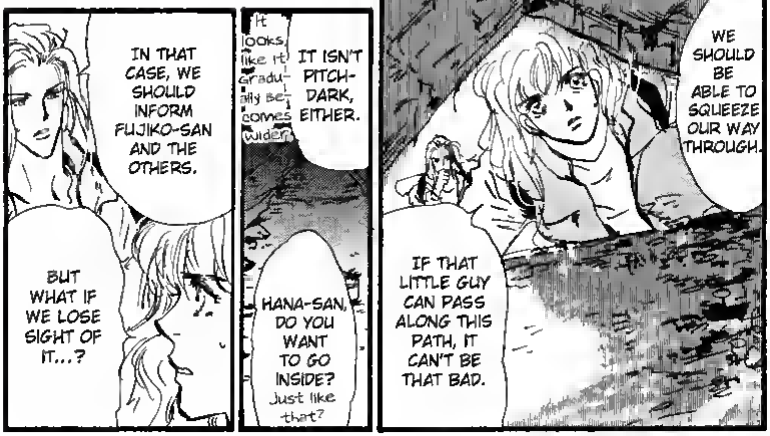
WHAT IS AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN...
AT THIS PLACE?

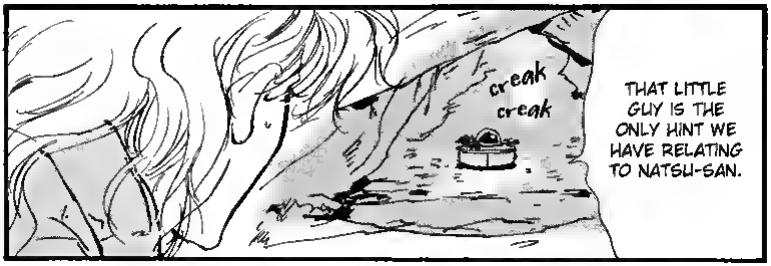
creak
creak

IT
WENT
INSIDE

creak
creak




WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE OUR WAY THROUGH.
IF THAT LITTLE GUY CAN PASS ALONG THIS PATH, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD.
It looks like it gradually becomes wider.
IT ISN'T PITCH-DARK, EITHER.
HANA-SAN, DO YOU WANT TO GO INSIDE? Just like that?
IN THAT CASE, WE SHOULD INFORM FUJIKO-SAN AND THE OTHERS.
BUT WHAT IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF IT...?


creak creak
THAT LITTLE GUY IS THE ONLY HINT WE HAVE RELATING TO NATSU-SAN.

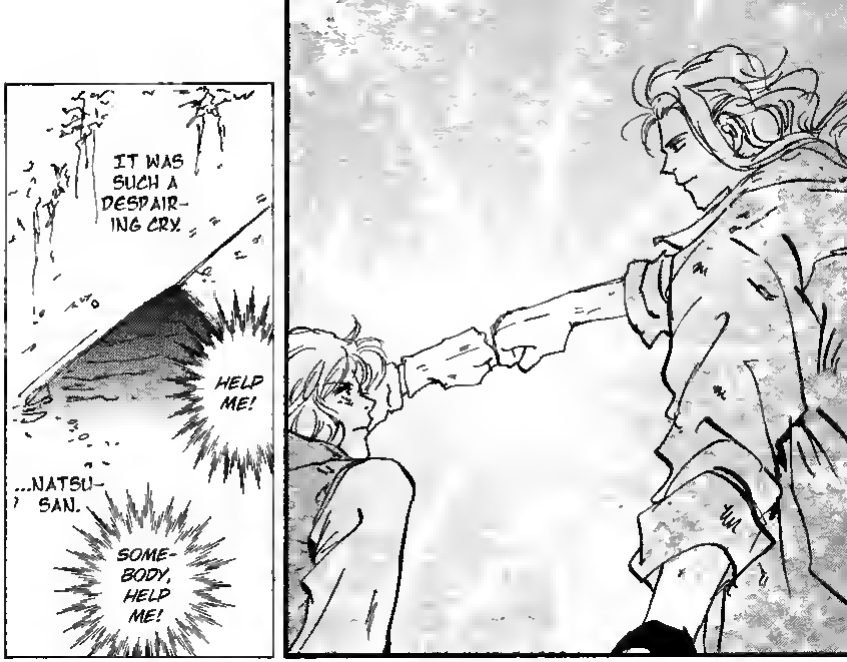
TO FUJIKO-SAN AND CHISA-SAN,
Because it's slow
THEN, LET'S WRITE A LETTER QUICKLY.
OKAY.
AS WELL AS TSUNO-MATA-SAN.
IS WORRIED...
ABOUT ARASHI-KUN.
YEAH...
HANA-SAN...

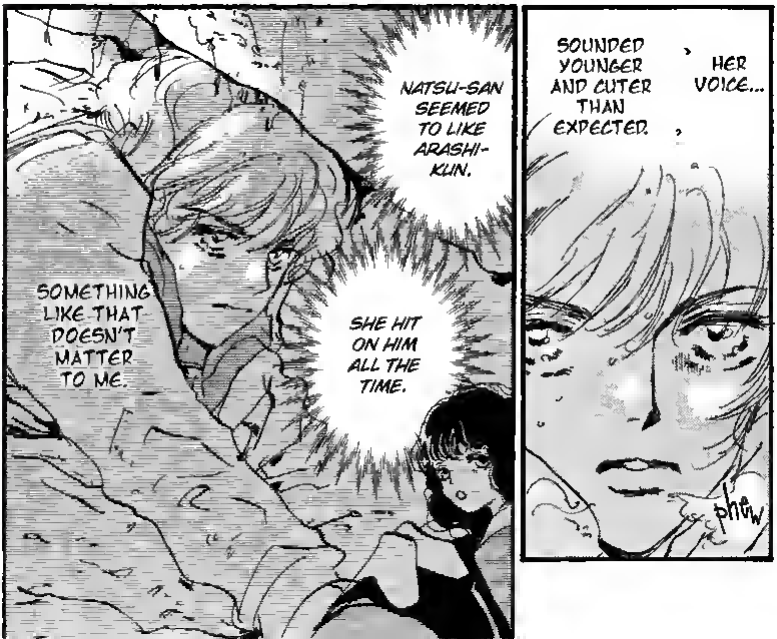
HANA-SAN,
LET'S BE CAREFUL ON OUR WAY.
LET'S HEAD BACK AS SOON AS WE SENSE ANY DANGER.
You must'n't come, either
whinny
woof
A JOB!
TAKE THIS LETTER TO TSUNO-MATA-SAN.
THE OTHER ONE IS FOR FUJIKO-SAN AND CHISA-SAN.
THE REST OF YOU WAIT HERE!
YOU MUSTN'T FOLLOW US!
Huh?
whinny

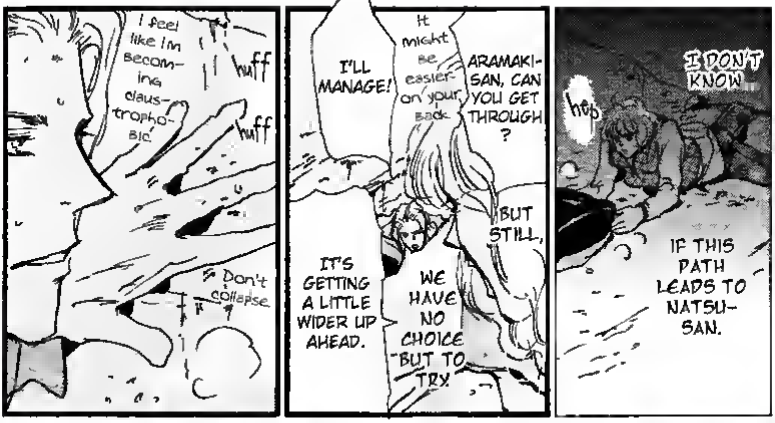
I AM AFRAID.

YOU'RE WITH ME, ARAMAKI-SAN,
SO I'M NOT AFRAID.

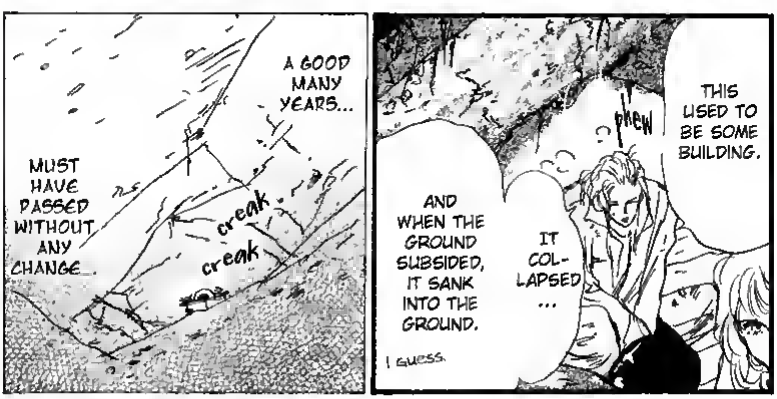
ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING TO YOU.
BUT...
YOU'RE ENERGETIC.
So it can't be helped.


IT WAS SUCH A DESPAIR-ING CRY.
HELP ME!
...NATSU-SAN.
SOME-BODY, HELP ME!


NATSU-SAN SEEMED TO LIKE ARASHI-KUN.
SHE HIT ON HIM ALL THE TIME.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
HER VOICE... SOUNDED YOUNGER AND CUTER THAN EXPECTED.
phew


I feel like I'm becoming claustrophobic
huff
huff
Don't collapse
I'LL MANAGE!
It might be easier on your back.
ARAMAKI-SAN, CAN YOU GET THROUGH?
IT'S GETTING A LITTLE WIDER UP AHEAD.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY
BUT STILL,
I DON'T KNOW...
hop
IF THIS PATH LEADS TO NATSU-SAN.

THEY'RE DILAPIDATED, THOUGH.
IT ISN'T ROCK.
THESE WALLS ARE MAN-MADE.


A GOOD MANY YEARS...
MUST HAVE PASSED WITHOUT ANY CHANGE...
creak
creak
AND WHEN THE GROUND SUBSIDED, IT SANK INTO THE GROUND.
I guess.
IT COL-LAPSED ...
prew
THIS USED TO BE SOME BUILDING.

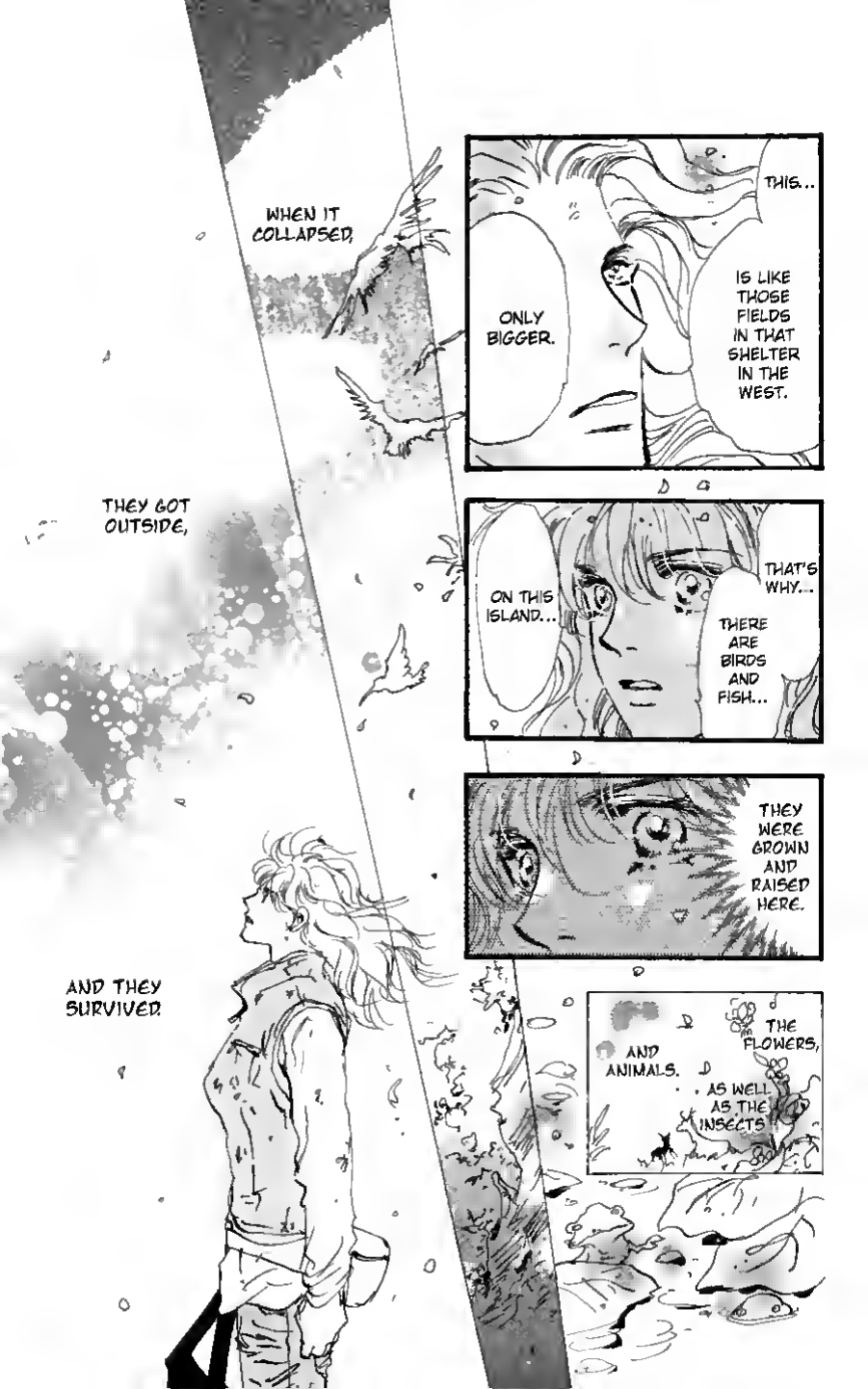
BUT THE AIR ISN'T MUSTY.
THERE'S A DRAFT.
THERE MUST BE AN OPENING UP AHEAD.
THE CLEANING ROBOT IS LEAVING...
A CLEAR TRACK.
RUSTLE
THE LITTLE GUY...
IS CLEANING, HUH...?

I'm not really happy about it
SPIDERS...? COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ON THIS ISLAND SO FAR.
BUT THERE ARE SOME.
I GUESS SO.
I don't mind spiders.
COBWEBS? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
THEY'RE STICKY.
ARAMAKI-SAN, PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WAH?!
...
IT'S GETTING BRIGHTER.
WE NEED TO WATCH OUT.
IT REMINDED ME OF THAT PURPLE ICHOR.
It isn't necessarily spiders.

beep
flutter
beep
flap
flap
chirp
creak
creak creak
beep
beep
beep
flap
flap

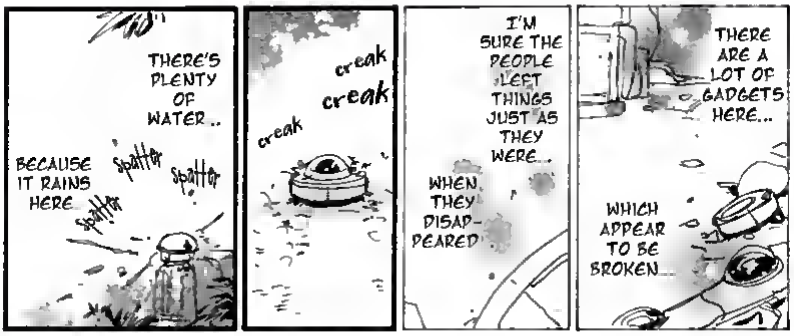
DID WE ARRIVE OUTSIDE ...?
NO.
THIS ISN'T OUTSIDE.

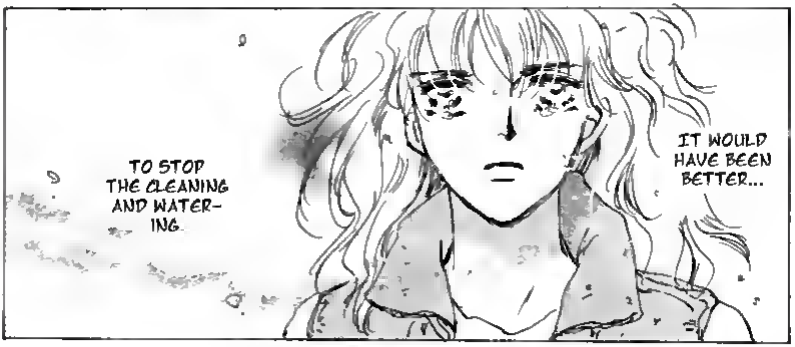
THEY BROKE THROUGH THE CEILING
IT WAS A DOME-SHAPED BUILDING, I SUPPOSE.
Aap
Aap
beep
IT'S SPRINKLING WATER..?
clack clack clack
Spatter Spatter Spatter
SPLASH
Eep!
Jop. Elm

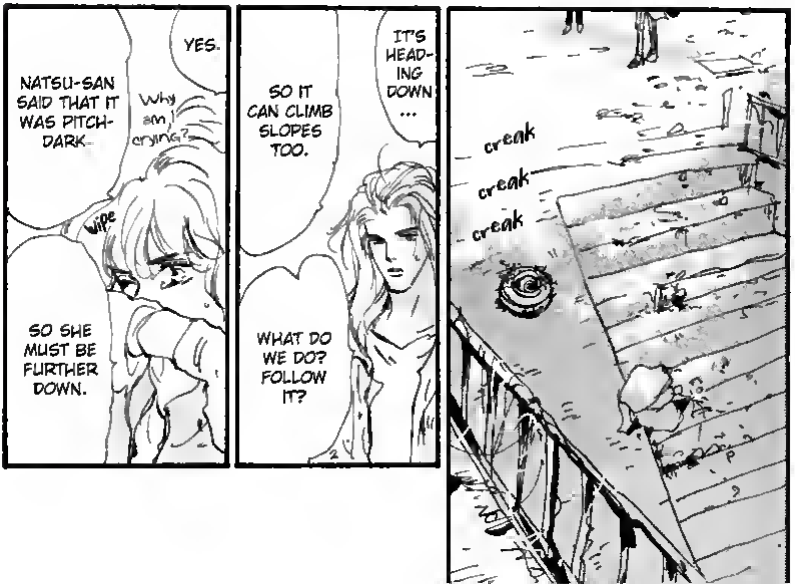

WHEN IT COLLAPSED,
THEY GOT OUTSIDE,
AND THEY SURVIVED.
THIS...
IS LIKE THOSE FIELDS IN THAT SHELTER IN THE WEST.
ONLY BIGGER.
THAT'S WHY...
THERE ARE BIRDS AND FISH...
ON THIS ISLAND...
THEY WERE GROWN AND RAISED HERE.
THE FLOWERS,
AND ANIMALS.
AS WELL AS THE INSECTS

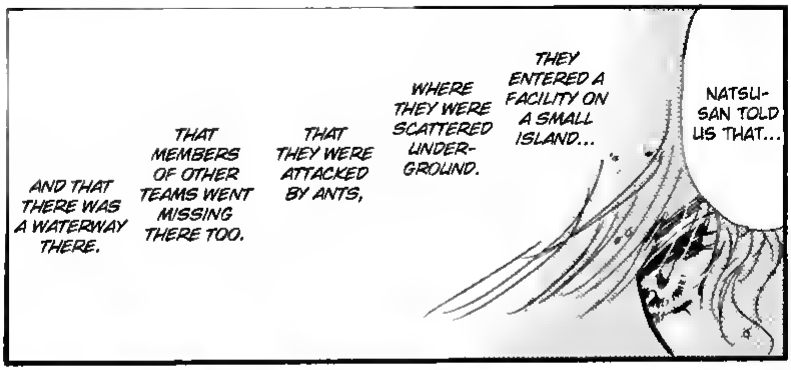
THIS PLACE...
IS THE ORIGIN...
OF TODAY'S SADO.
THIS PLACE DIFFERS FROM OTHERS.
THAT'S WHY...
THERE ARE CREATURES AROUND THAT FEEL FAMILIAR.
THEY ADAPTED,
AND THEY WERE SELECTED."
LIKE IN THAT RESTORATION PROGRAM...
FOR THE CRESTED IBIS TO RETURN IT TO THE JAPANESE WILD AFTER DECADES.
BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT HUMANS COULD LIVE HERE?
THAT WE COULD LIVE HERE?
THEY TRIED TO PRESERVE THE NATURE FROM BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION.
IS THAT WHY MY DAD TOLD ME TO GO TO SADO?

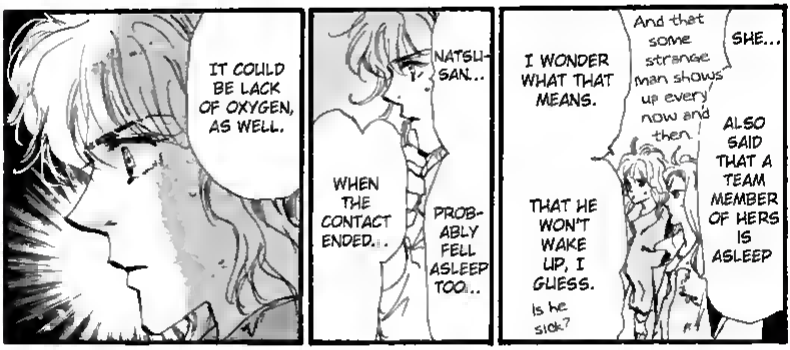
IS...
Hello!
NATSU-SAN,
IF YOU'RE HERE, MAKE SOME SOUND!
SOME-ONE HERE?
HELLO!
NATSU-SAN,
NATSU-SAN!
ARE YOU HERE?
clank
clank
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
NATSU-SAN!
Hello!

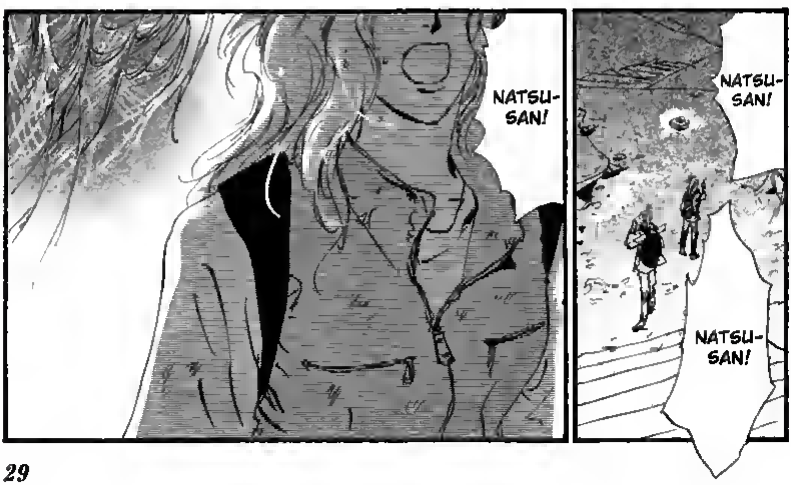

THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER..
BECAUSE IT RAINS HERE
spatter
spatter
spatter
creak
creak
creak
I'M SURE THE PEOPLE LEFT THINGS JUST AS THEY WERE...
WHEN THEY DISAP-PEARED
THERE ARE A LOT OF GADGETS HERE...
WHICH APPEAR TO BE BROKEN...


TO STOP THE CLEANING AND WATER-ING.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...

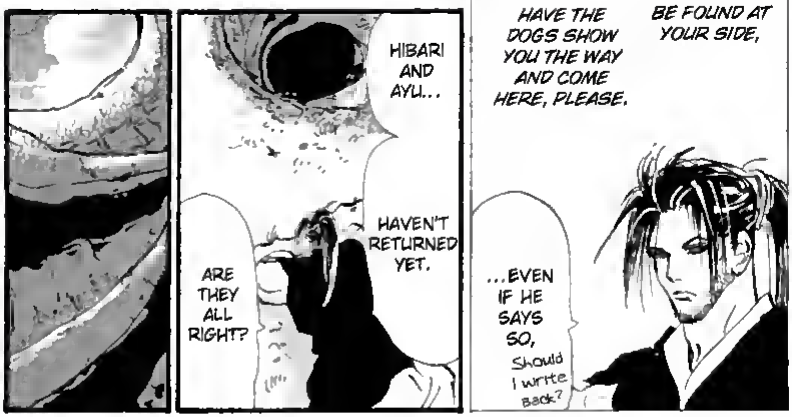

YES.
NATSU-SAN SAID THAT IT WAS PITCH-DARK.
Why am I crying?
wipe
SO SHE MUST BE FURTHER DOWN.
IT'S HEAD-ING DOWN ...
SO IT CAN CLIMB SLOPES TOO.
WHAT DO WE DO? FOLLOW IT?
creak
creak
creak


NATSU-SAN TOLD US THAT...
THEY ENTERED A FACILITY ON A SMALL ISLAND...
WHERE THEY WERE SCATTERED UNDER-GROUND.
THAT THEY WERE ATTACKED BY ANTS,
THAT MEMBERS OF OTHER TEAMS WENT MISSING THERE TOO.
AND THAT THERE WAS A WATERWAY THERE.

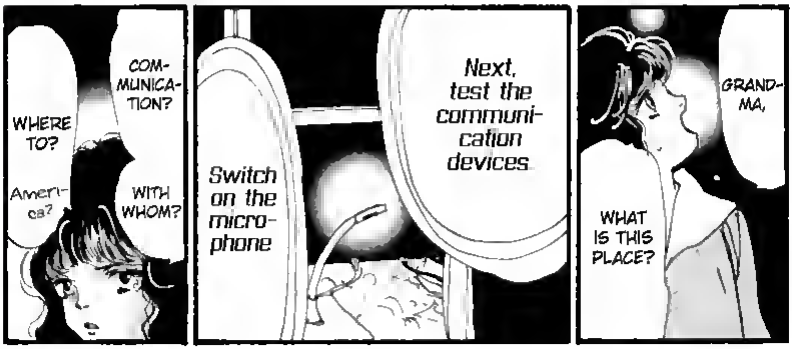

IT COULD BE LACK OF OXYGEN, AS WELL.
NATSU-SAN...
WHEN THE CONTACT ENDED...
PROB-ABLY FELL ASLEEP TOO...
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS.
And that some strange man shows up every now and then.
SHE...
ALSO SAID THAT A TEAM MEMBER OF HERS IS ASLEEP
THAT HE WON'T WAKE UP, I GUESS.
Is he sick?

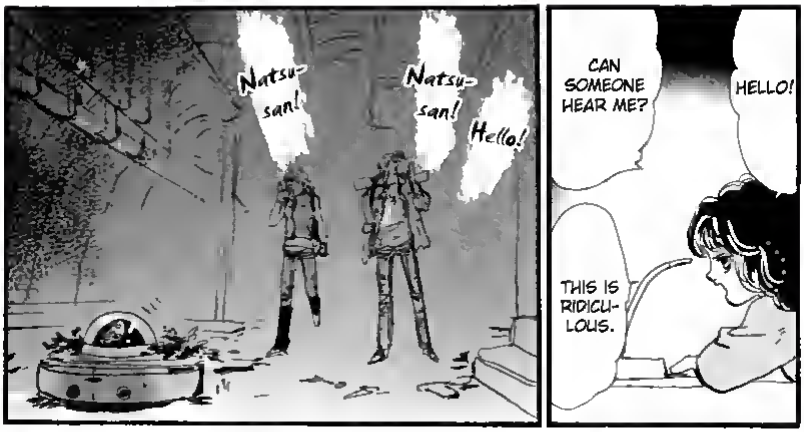

NATSU-SAN!
NATSU-SAN!
NATSU-SAN!

THAT A ROBOT SHOWED UP WHICH ESTABLISHED A CONNECTION SO THAT THEY COULD TALK TO NATSU-SAN.
I DON'T GET IT.
THE LETTER SAYS...
How can they be so daring?
THEY REALLY ARE ADVEN-TUROUS.
OH MY,
Both of them
THEY WENT IN THERE?!
They told us to wait here.
That's right
Yes
SO, WHAT DO WE DO?
THE LETTER SAYS TO NOT COME.
Both of them are athletic too
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THERE ARE BIRDS AND FISH THERE AS WELL...
HEH...
I wonder if they received mine too
"WE FOUND A PATH TO THE LOWER LEVEL."
A LETTER FROM ARAMAKI-SAN?
They really came.
OH.
YAP
YAP
YAP
YAP

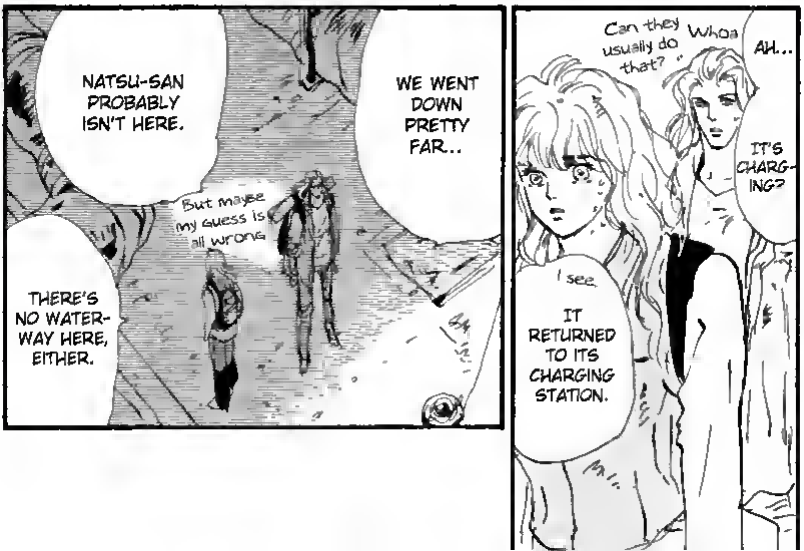

HIBARI AND AYU...
HAVEN'T RETURNED YET.
ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?
IF THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FOUND AT YOUR SIDE,
HAVE THE DOGS SHOW YOU THE WAY AND COME HERE, PLEASE.
...EVEN IF HE SAYS SO,
Should I write back?

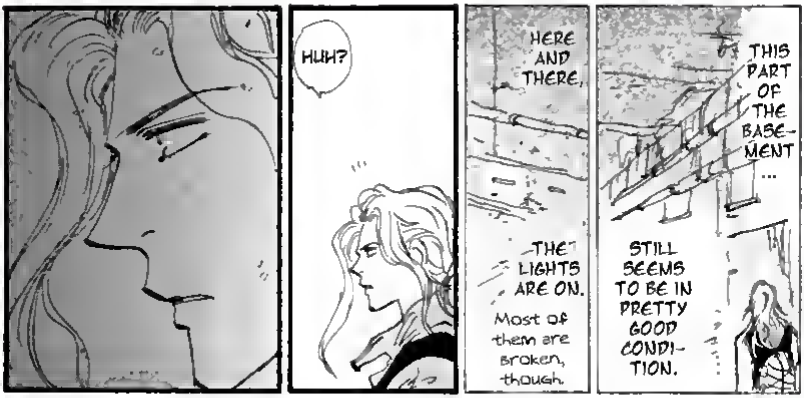
BUT NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED.
SHE TOLD ME TO ACTIVATE THE POWER SOURCES...

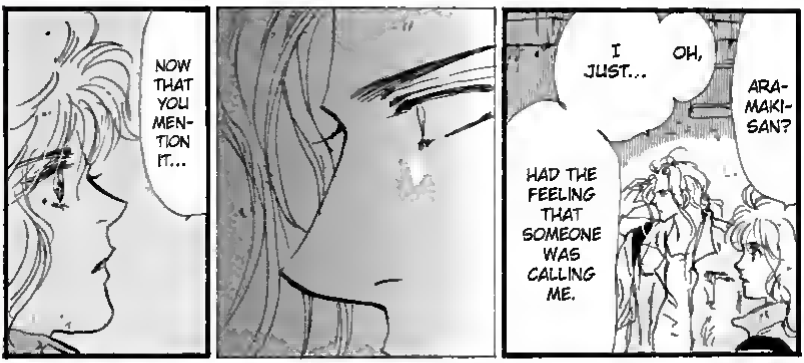

COM-MUNICA-TION?
WHERE TO?
WITH WHOM?
Ameri-ca?
Switch on the micro-phone
Next, test the communi-cation devices
GRAND-MA,
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


Natsu-san!
Natsu-san!
Hello!
CAN SOMEONE HEAR ME?
HELLO!
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS.

clack
creak creak creak

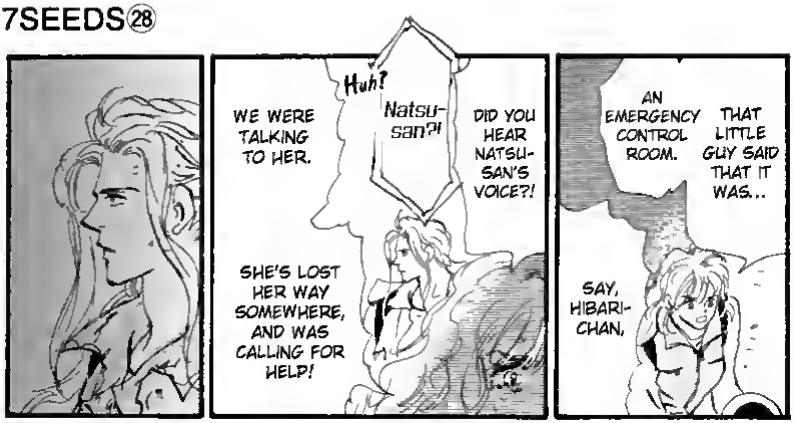

NATSU-SAN PROBABLY ISN'T HERE.
WE WENT DOWN PRETTY FAR..
But maybe my guess is all wrong
THERE'S NO WATER-WAY HERE, EITHER.
Can they usually do that?
Whoa
AH..
IT'S CHARG-ING?
I see.
IT RETURNED TO ITS CHARGING STATION.

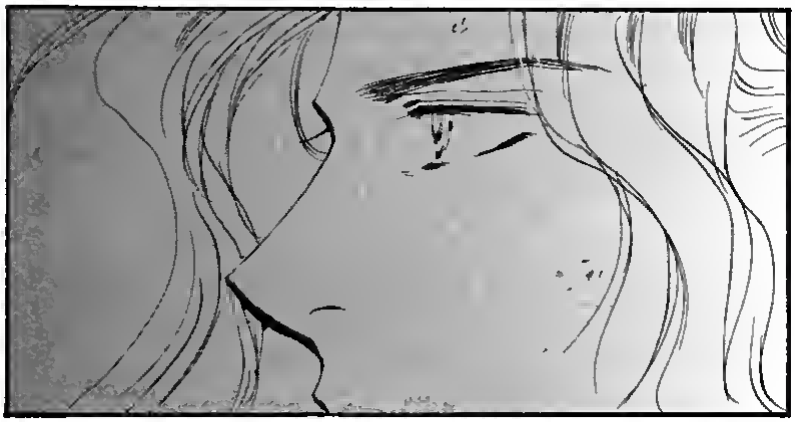

HUH?
HERE AND THERE,
THE LIGHTS ARE ON.
Most of them are broken, though.
THIS PART OF THE BASEMENT ...
STILL SEEMS TO BE IN PRETTY GOOD CONDI-TION.

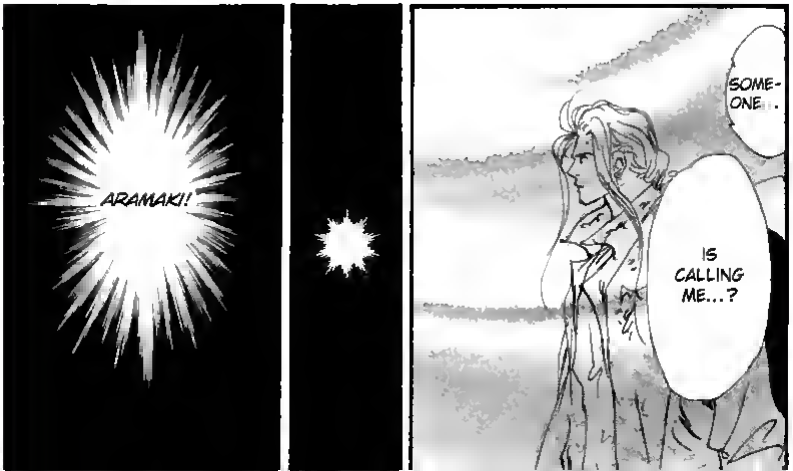

NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT...
I JUST...
OH, ARA-MAKI-SAN?
HAD THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE WAS CALLING ME.

hello!
ssh
Um.
Is there someone there?

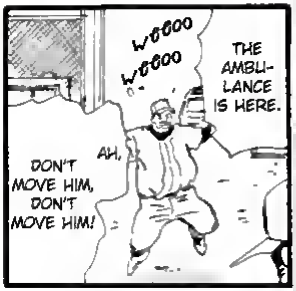
WAIT, THAT VOICE JUST NOW.
YES, PLEASE DO!
There's an incoming call from the emergency control room
Shall I connect you?
Huh?
Is that you, Hibari-chan?!
WE'RE TALKING THROUGH A CLEANING ROBOT.
WE FOLLOWED IT, AND WE'RE UNDERGROUND NOW.
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK,
BUT WHERE ARE YOU?!
HUH? WHAT?
IS THAT HANA'S VOICE?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
I'M TALKING INTO A MICROPHONE.
WHERE I FOUND A STRANGE ROOM.
I CLIMBED DOWN INTO A PIT BENEATH THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP FROM MY FAMILY...
?
A CLEANING ROBOT?


THAT LITTLE GUY SAID THAT IT WAS...
AN EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM.
SAY, HIBARI-CHAN,
Huh?
Natsu-san?!
DID YOU HEAR NATSU-SAN'S VOICE?!
WE WERE TALKING TO HER.
SHE'S LOST HER WAY SOMEWHERE, AND WAS CALLING FOR HELP!

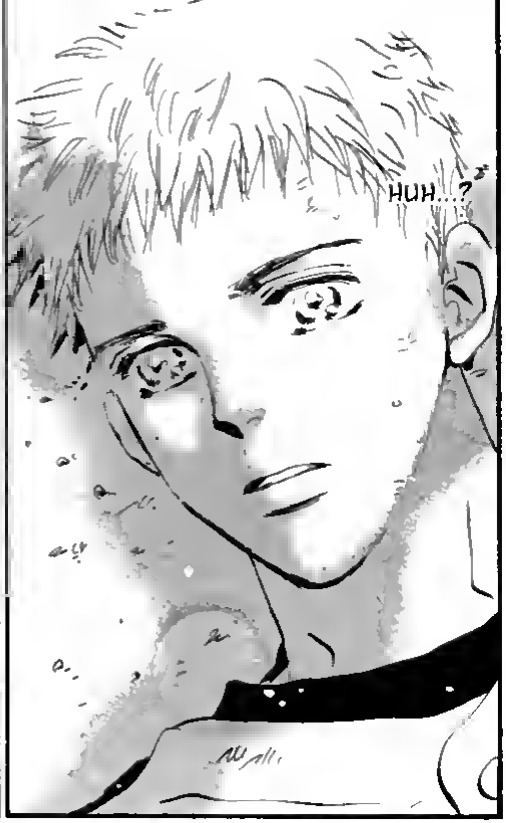



ARAMAKI!
SOME-ONE..
IS CALLING ME...?

ARAMAKI!!
THANK GOOD-NESS, YOU'RE AWAKE
AH, DON'T MOVE, DON'T MOVE.
YOU WERE HIT BY A BALL.
IT WAS THIS DUMB-ASS!
I'm sorry.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO THROW AT THE SECOND BASE,
BUT YOU HIT ARAMAKI! WHAT KIND OF CONTROL IS THAT?
Our school regularly participates in the Koshien tournament, man!


WOOOO
WOOOO
THE AMBULANCE IS HERE.
AH,
DON'T MOVE HIM, DON'T MOVE HIM!

GO AND HAVE YOURSELF CHECKED PROPERLY.
COACH ...
WITHOUT YOU, WE WON'T MAKE IT TO THE KOSHIEN TOURNAMENT.

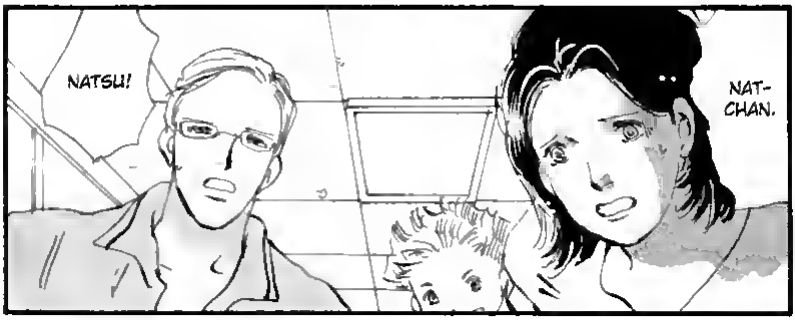

HUH...?

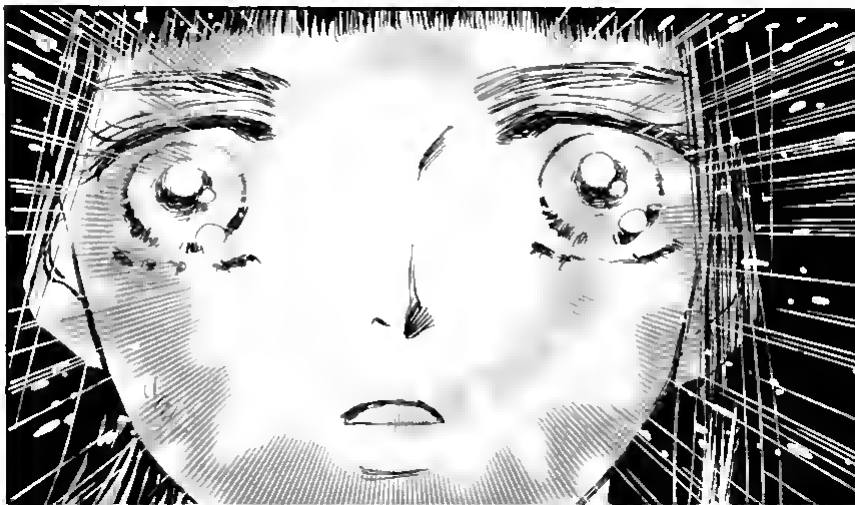
HUH...?

WHAT DID YOU SEE?
We thought you were dead
YOU WERE OUT COLD FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.
buzz
A FIELD OF FLOWERS, OR SOMETHING?
twins
left
right
The right one is the older twin

NATSU...

NATSU.


NATSU!
NAT-
CHAN.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATSU?
YOU WOKE UP.
THANK GOOD-NESS...
...HUH...?
YOU REMEM-BER US?
YOU WERE IN A CAR ACCIDENT.
YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR THREE DAYS.
MOM...
DAD...

SIS, WHAT DID YOU DREAM ABOUT?
Did someone tell you to go back?
A RIVER, OR A FIELD OF FLOWERS?
HEY, KENTA!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE IN PAIN ALL THIS WHILE.
I WAS SO WORRIED...
...HUH?
SEMIMARU...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BOY?
How impolite.
MOM, IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU'RE SO NICE TO ME.
IT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT? DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT.
IS IT GOOD?
YEP, IT'S YUMMY.
WANT TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK TOMORROW?
IT'S STRANGE...
HANA...

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FCα FLOWER COMICS α
flowers フラワーコミックスアルファ

7SEEDS セブンシーズ 28

Yumi Tamura
田村由美

7SEEDS 28
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FCα641

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FCα flowers フラワーコミックス アルファ

●作品紹介

★佐渡島にたどりついた花たちは、残されていたロボットを通じて地下のナツと初めてコンタクトを取る。しかしナツは意識を失い、彼女を助けようと花と新芽は地下に降りてゆく。一方、地下の嵐もロボット経由のメンバー同士の会話に遭遇していた。その中で花が生きていることを知った嵐は…!?

7Seeds

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Rain Over Paradise
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Mountains Chapter 8

[—The Good Old Days—]

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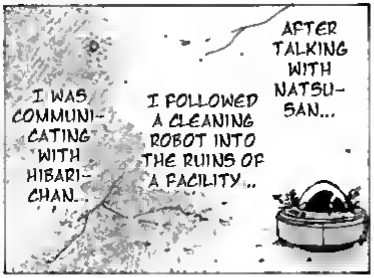
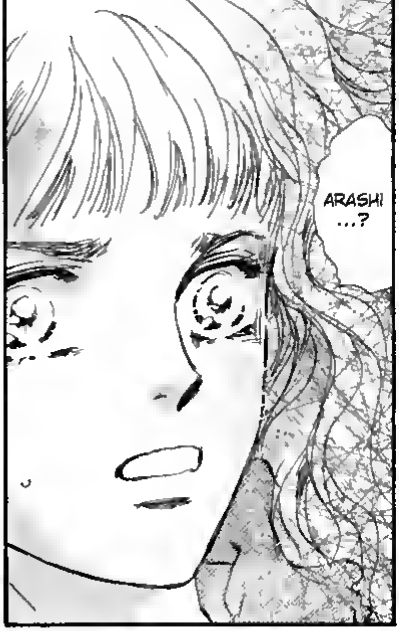
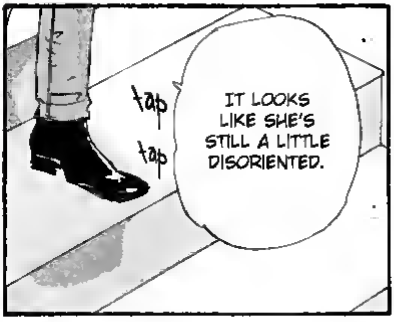
WHAT DO YOU SAY, HANA?
WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIAL TO SURVIVE IN THE FUTURE?
ARASHI?!
WELL DONE, HANA!
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
THEY SAY THAT IT'S A SET-UP OF A WORLD AFTER MANKIND WAS ELIMINATED.
DAD...?
MOM...?

WHY AM I DREAMING?
WAIT A SEC.
NO, WAIT.


I WAS COMMUNICATING WITH HIBARI-CHAN...
I FOLLOWED A CLEANING ROBOT INTO THE RUINS OF A FACILITY...
AFTER TALKING WITH NATSU-SAN...


ARASHI ...?

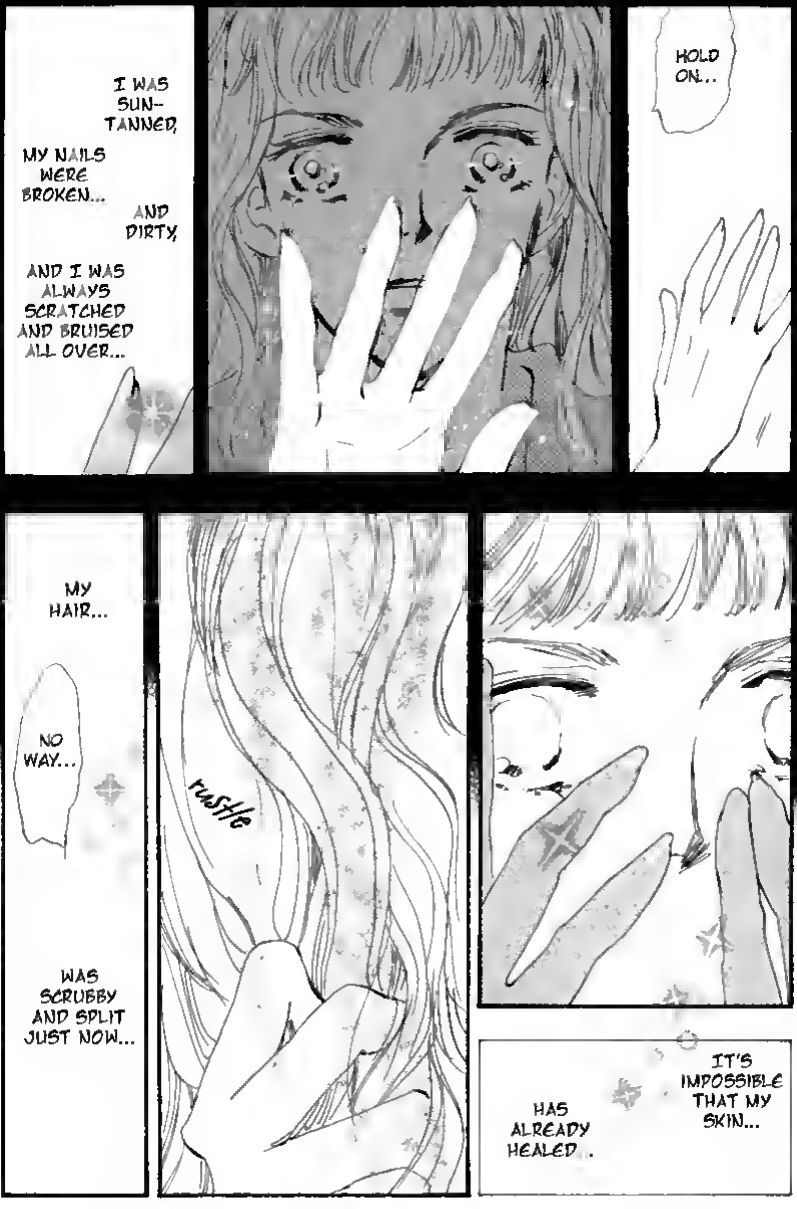
ARAMAKI-SAN!
ARAMAKI-SAN...?
TOGETHER WITH ARAMAKI-SAN...


tap
tap
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S STILL A LITTLE DISORIENTED.

ARA-MAKI?
FROM BASE-BALL?

HE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THIS VIRTUAL SIMULATION SYSTEM.
THIS IS MY JUNIOR...
Sorry, I was really busy.
AT THE UNIVERSITY, MOZUNOTO.
Finally, you show up
HELLO, HANA-
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO MONITOR YOU.
THE HIGH SCHOOL BASE-BALL STAR...
TAKAHIRO ARAMAKI-KUN IS INCLUDED IN THE DATA TOO.
YOU MUST HAVE MET HIM.
KANA-ME-KUN,
HANA IS KIND OF SPACED OUT.
IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY BAD EFFECTS ON HER BRAIN, DID IT?
DON'T WORRY, MIHO-SAN.
Or did we meet in there?
OH, YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'm included in the data as well.
WE MET SEVERAL TIMES WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, THOUGH.
MONI-TOR?
ME-CHAN ...?
...

ADVENTURE SIMULATIONS HAVE COME THIS FAR TOO.
WHAT SHE EXPERIENCED JUST NOW WAS A TEST COURSE OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS.
IT FELT LIKE YOU REALLY WERE IN THAT WORLD, DIDN'T IT?
YOU SEE,
OF COURSE YOU CAN PLAY THIS SYSTEM LIKE A GAME, AS YOU JUST DID.
BUT IT'S PROMOTED...
AS A GOVERNMENT PROJECT FOR EDUCATION, NURSING, TERMINAL CARE..
OR REINTEGRATION OF CRIMINALS.
WHAT'S MORE, IF YOU ONLY SET UP THE APPEARANCE OF A WORLD AND THE CHARACTERS,
There are various world types
THE PLAYER CAN MOVE FREELY, ACCORDING TO HIS OWN WILL.
THE PLAYER CREATES THE STORY,
WAIT...
AND CAN LIVE HIS VERY OWN LIFE.
A MINUTE ...

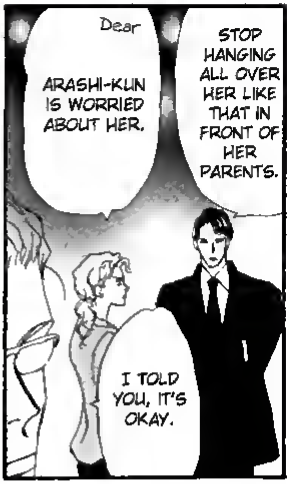

I WAS SUN-TANNED,
MY NAILS WERE BROKEN...
AND DIRTY,
AND I WAS ALWAYS SCRATCHED AND BRUISED ALL OVER...
HOLD ON..
MY HAIR...
NO WAY...
WAS SCRUBBY AND SPLIT JUST NOW...
rustle
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT MY SKIN...
HAS ALREADY HEALED.

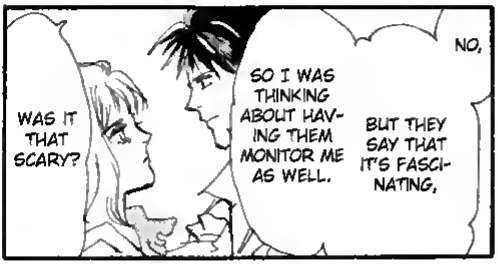
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
WAIT A MINUTE!
HOLD ON!
Hey
Don't worry
HANA, ARE YOU OKAY?
HANA!
ARASHI ...
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, HANA.
YOU'RE BACK.
IT WAS PRETTY SCARY, WASN'T IT?

YEAH.
ARASHI ...?

YEAH.
ARASHI ...?
ARASHI...
YEAH.

ARASHI ...
YOU DIDN'T GO INTO THE FUTURE, DID YOU?

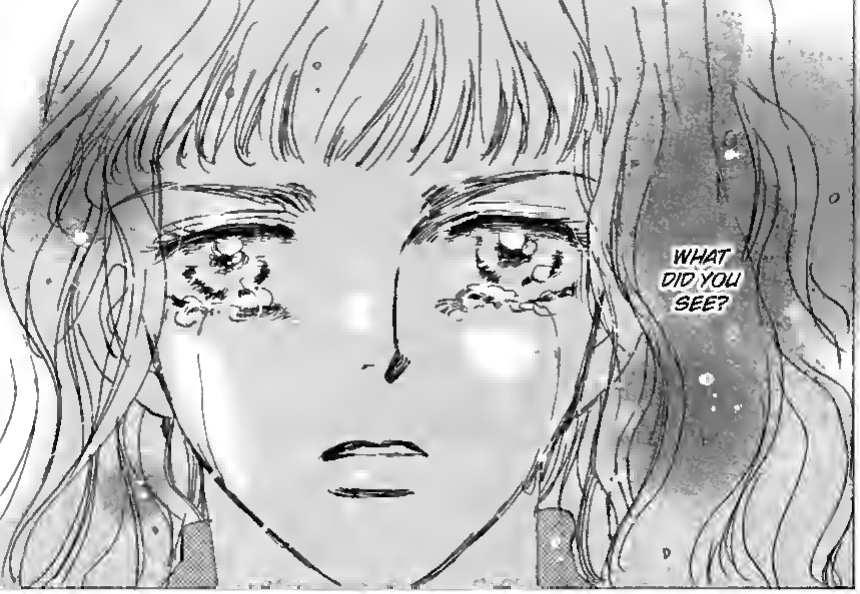

Dear
ARASHI-KUN IS WORRIED ABOUT HER.
STOP HANGING ALL OVER HER LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF HER PARENTS.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S OKAY.


NO,
SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT HAVING THEM MONITOR ME AS WELL.
BUT THEY SAY THAT IT'S FASCINATING,
WAS IT THAT SCARY?

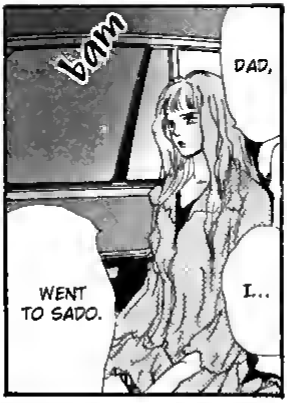
SO, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU'RE AFRAID OF TOO.
TELL ME WHAT KIND OF WORLD IT WAS...
AT LEISURE LATER.

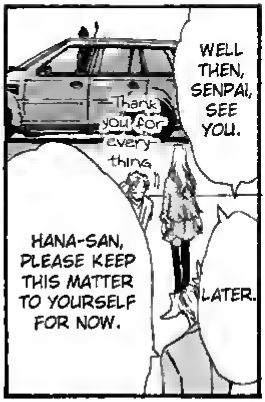
AH,
ARASHI-KUN, DON'T YOU HAVE CLUB ACTIVITIES?
I GOTTA GO.
Sorry
Now?
A TOURNAMENT IS COMING UP.

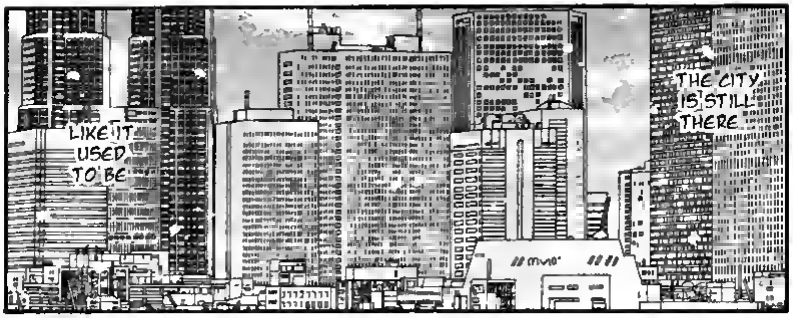
I... MET...
ARASHI...
ARASHI...
I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
IF YOU FEEL UNWELL, HAVE YOURSELF CHECKED PROPERLY!
ARASHI ...
YES, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.
My office has a share in it too
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SYSTEM...
IS STILL IN THE EXPERI-MENTAL STAGE, THOUGH.
DAD,
trembl
tap
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PROJECT "7 SEEDS"...?
OUR ULTIMATE GOAL...
IS TO SEND AT LEAST SEVEN PEOPLE IN THERE TO TRAVEL THAT WORLD TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME.
It would revolu-tionize online games
It's still impossible at present because this device is so expensive
HANA-SAN,
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
IT WAS A SURVIVAL SET-UP,
BUT YOU FELT LIKE BEING A PART OF IT, DIDN'T YOU?


WHAT DID YOU SEE?

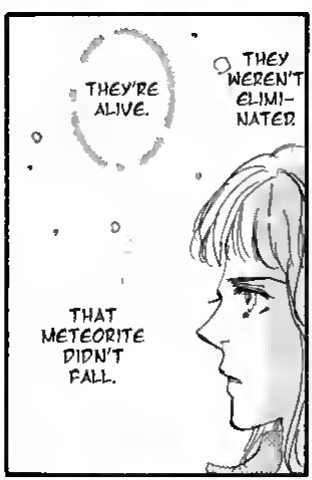
HEH.
I'D LIKE TO GO THERE TOGETHER NEXT TIME.
SO, THERE'S THAT ROUTE TOO?
Inside the game.

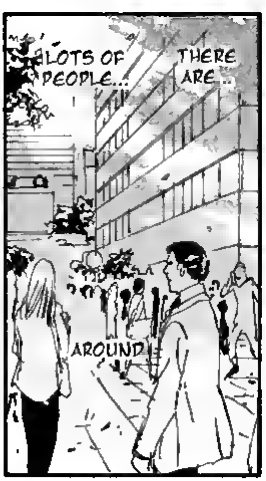

bam
DAD,
I...
WENT TO SADO.


WELL THEN, SENPAI, SEE YOU.
Thank you for everything.
HANA-SAN, PLEASE KEEP THIS MATTER TO YOURSELF FOR NOW.
LATER.


LIKE IT USED TO BE
THE CITY IS STILL THERE...

THEY'RE ALIVE...


THEY'RE ALIVE.
THEY WEREN'T ELIMI-NATED.
THAT METEORITE DIDN'T FALL.


LOTS OF PEOPLE...
THERE ARE...
AROUND

IF IT'S REAL.
THAT'S GOOD...

DID I...
COME BACK...?
A WORLD WHERE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.
OF COURSE, IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS.
THIS WAY...
I PREFER IT...

OSH
WHO
WHOA.
th
ud
I TOLD YOU TO HAVE YOURSELF CHECKED, AND THEN TAKE OFF A FEW DAYS, DIDN'T I?
NO, YOU MUSTN'T TAKE A CONCUSSION LIGHTLY.
COACH, I'M OKAY.
YOU SHOULD TRY TO THROW IT STRAIGHT.
AWE-SOME
IT WOBBLED A LITTLE
HEY, ARA-MAKI!

I WANT...
TO PLAY BASE-BALL.
CONCUS-SIONS HAVE BECOME A PROBLEM ...
IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES TOO.
NO...
BECAUSE IT CONCERNS THE LIVES OF THE PLAYERS...
SAMEJIMA, WHO MAKES THE HEADLINES LATELY.
Stop fooling around twins
We're geniuses so we're fine
even if R we do
OH, SAME-JIMA.
You're reliable.
WELL, THE AUTUMN TOURNAMENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...
IT SEEMS HE SOMEHOW SET UP A PREFECTURE RECORD.
IN HOME-RUNS.
RIGHT. THE BEAST... I MEAN, THE NATURE-BOY FROM AKISHIMA INDUSTRIES.
Isn't he?
Ha ha ha
He should do some-thing about his hair
SAME-JIMA...
FUBUKI.

HE'S ALIVE,
AND HE PLAYS BASE-BALL.

FUBUKI...
IS ALIVE HERE.

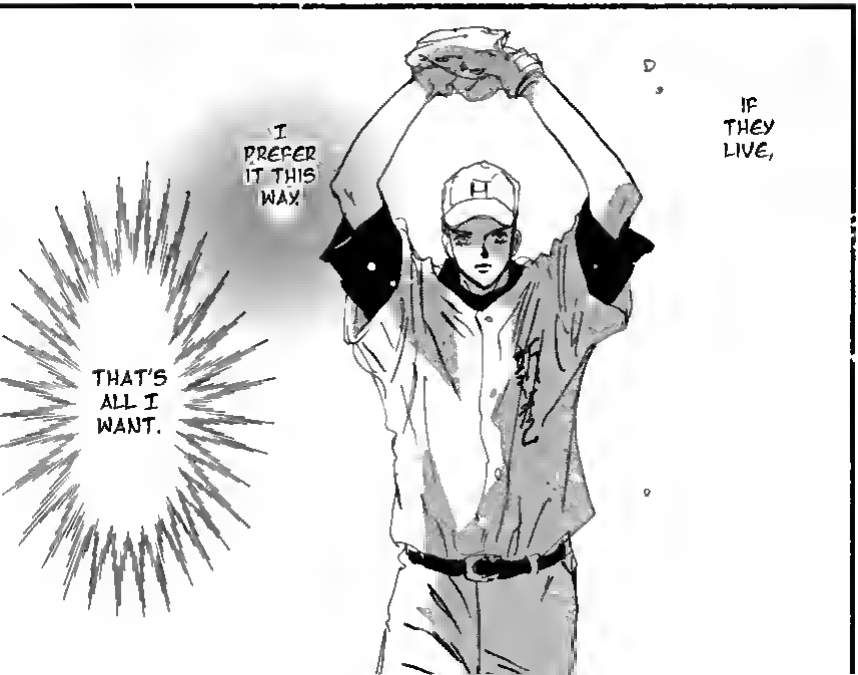
WHAT ABOUT MITSURU-SAN...?

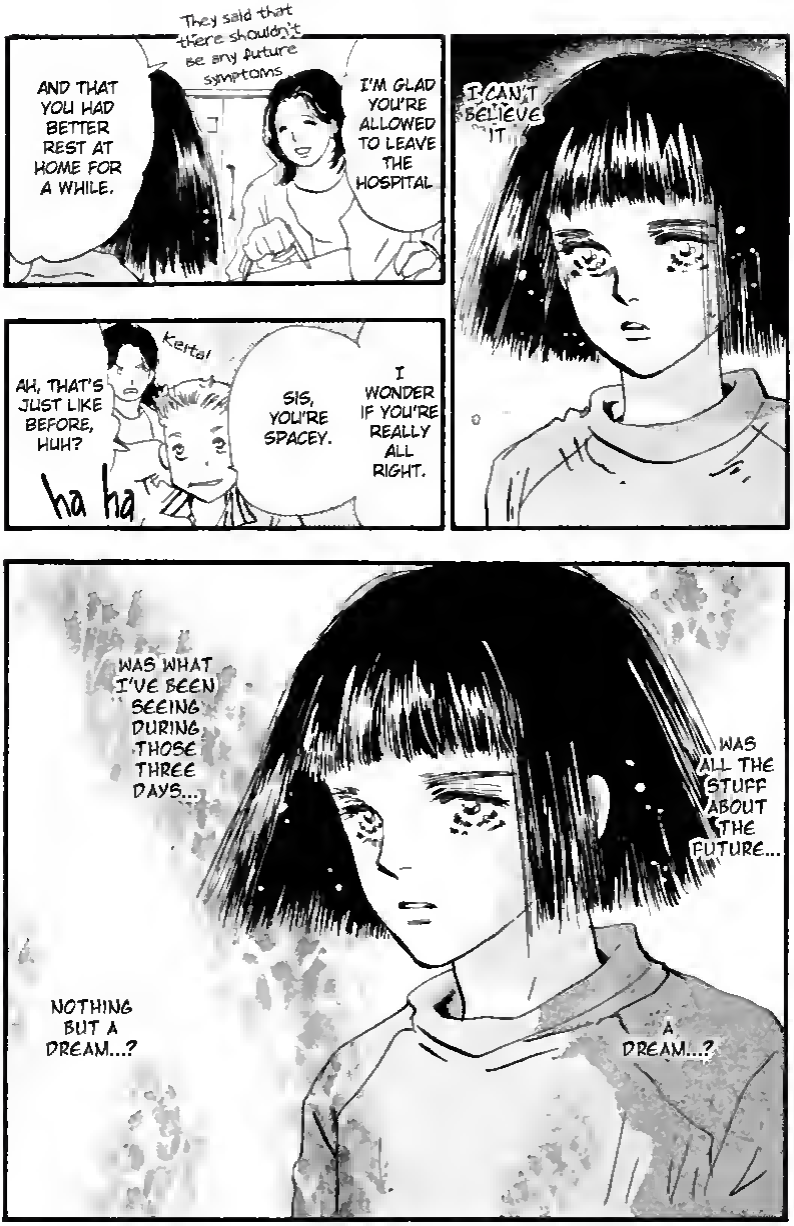
WE'LL NEVER MEET.

BUT I'M AFRAID OF KNOWING.
BECAUSE IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFER-ENCE IF I KNOW.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT...
IF SHE'S A REAL EXISTING PERSON BY SEARCH-ING THE INTERNET.

AS LONG AS THEY'RE ALIVE, I'M FINE WITH IT.
BUT STILL,
WE WON'T MEET.
WHETHER THIS IS A DREAM,
OR REALITY,


IF THEY LIVE,
I PREFER IT THIS WAY.
THAT'S ALL I WANT.


They said that there shouldn't be any future symptoms
AND THAT YOU HAD BETTER REST AT HOME FOR A WHILE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
Kerta!
AH, THAT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE, HUH?
ha ha
SIS, YOU'RE SPACEY.
I WONDER IF YOU'RE REALLY ALL RIGHT.
WAS WHAT I'VE BEEN SEEING DURING THOSE THREE DAYS...
WAS ALL THE STUFF ABOUT THE FUTURE...
NOTHING BUT A DREAM...?
A DREAM...?

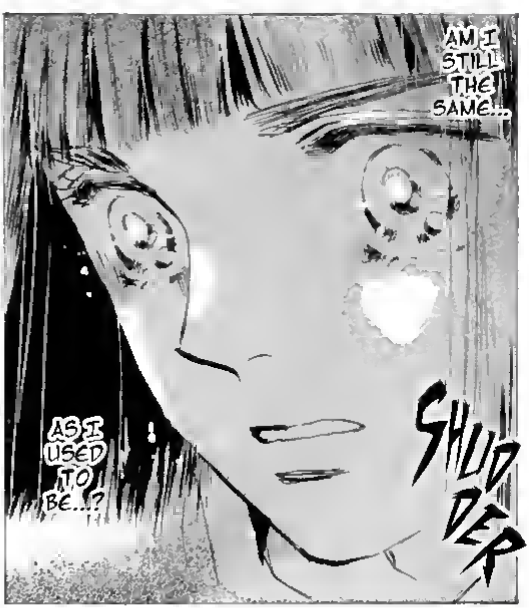
I DIDN'T TOUCH YOUR ROOM,
tap
tap
tap
SO TAKE A SHORT NAP UNTIL DINNER IS READY.
OKAY.
WEL-COME BACK.
WAS ALL OF THAT...
ow
A DREAM ...?
BUT A FEW MONTHS HAVE PASSED, RIGHT?
QUITE A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, HAVEN'T THEY?
AND...
IS THIS REAL?!
rattle
IT'S MY HOME...
MY HOME.
MY ROOM...

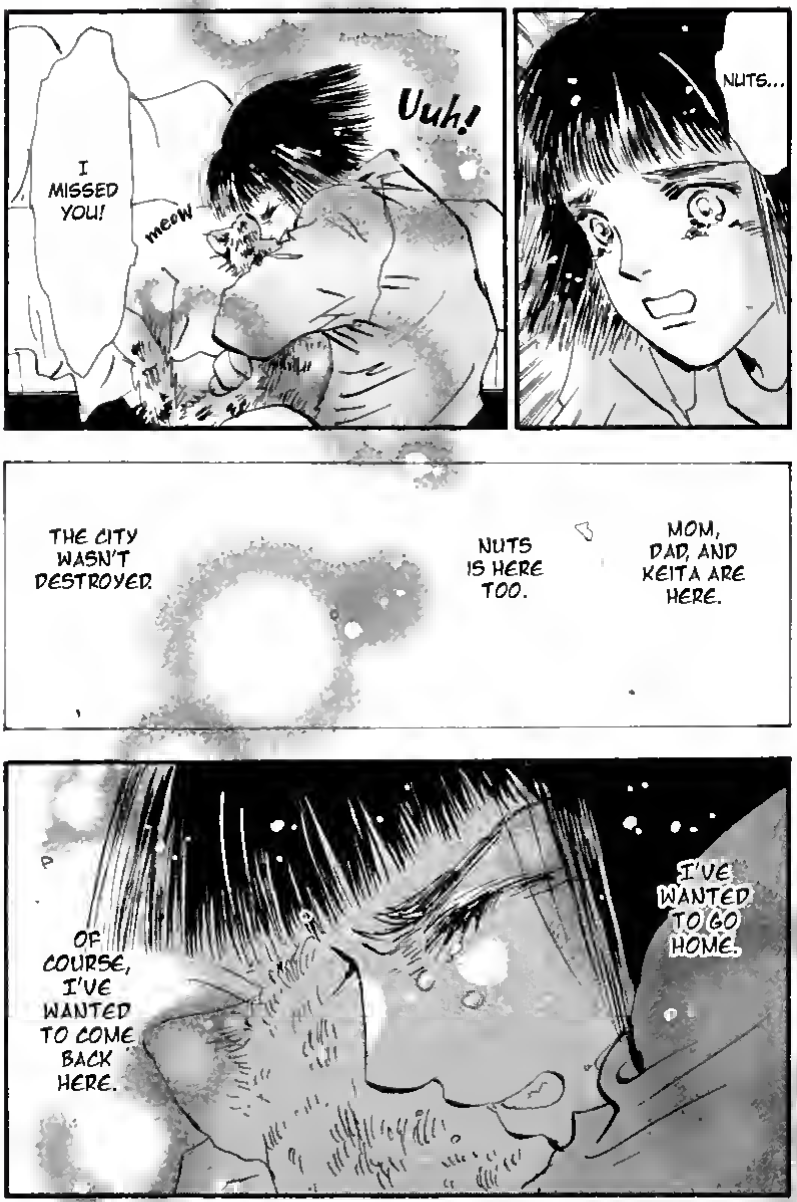
I DIDN'T GO INTO THE FUTURE, HUH...?
I GUESS...

ARASHI-KUN?
THEY WEREN'T THERE?
SEMI-MARU-SAN?
SO,
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ...?
AND WHAT ABOUT ANGO-KUN AND RYO-KUN?
BOTAN-SAN FINALLY PRAISED ME...
AND HOTARU-CHAN TOO.
AND AFTER I BECAME FRIENDS WITH MATSURI-CHAN?
I...
INTO THE FUTURE ?
NEVER WENT
WAS I...
JUST DREAM-ING...
THE THINGS I WISHED FOR?
AND HERE I THOUGHT...
I HELD UP WELL.

I HOLE UP IN MY ROOM,
I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL,
AND I'M NOT ABLE TO PROPERLY TALK WITH OTHERS.

MEOW


AM I STILL THE SAME...
AS I USED TO BE...?
SHUDDER


I MISSED YOU!
meow
Uuh!
NUTS...
THE CITY WASN'T DESTROYED.
NUTS IS HERE TOO.
MOM, DAD, AND KEITA ARE HERE.
OF COURSE, I'VE WANTED TO COME BACK HERE.
I'VE WANTED TO GO HOME.

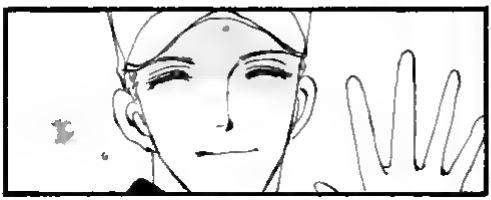
YOU DIDN'T GET A HEADACHE?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I'M FINE.
Good Finally, it'll be the Olympics. Since you're fast.
This time, it should work out.
Well, the time I swam was pretty good
Lunch
YOU SEE,
They were huge, and they attacked me.
Yuck! Then I can't go.
THERE WERE A LOT OF INSECTS IN THE FUTURE.
IF I DIDN'T GO INTO THE FUTURE...
IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS.
ARASHI IS HERE.
WHAT ELSE COULD I NEED?
HE'S HIS USUAL SELF...
THE EVERY-DAY LIFE...
IN MY OLD WORLD CONTINUES...
Hey, love-birds!

HANA-SAN.
THE FUTURE WAS JUST DATA.
AND IT DIDN'T EXIST...
SO,
HANA!
WHY...
I HAVE LOST SOME-THING PRECIOUS?
DO I FEEL LIKE...

stomp
stomp

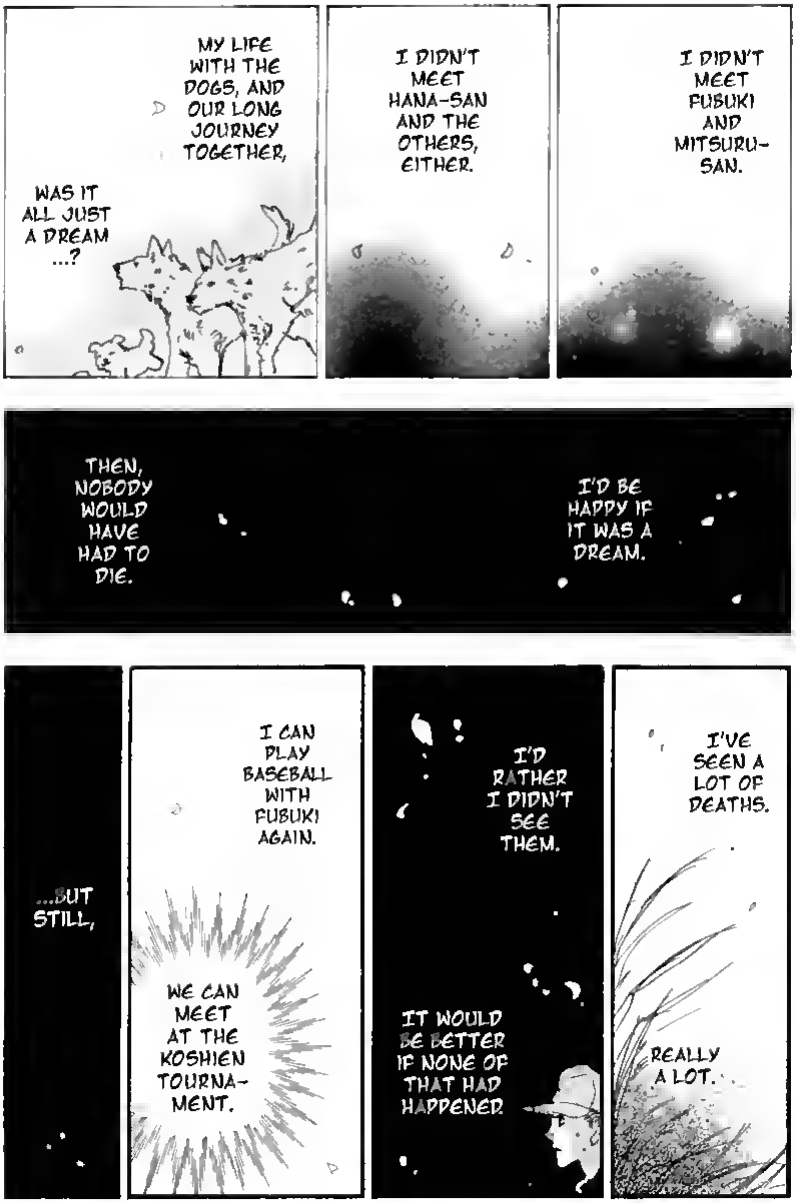
huff
huff

24
Store



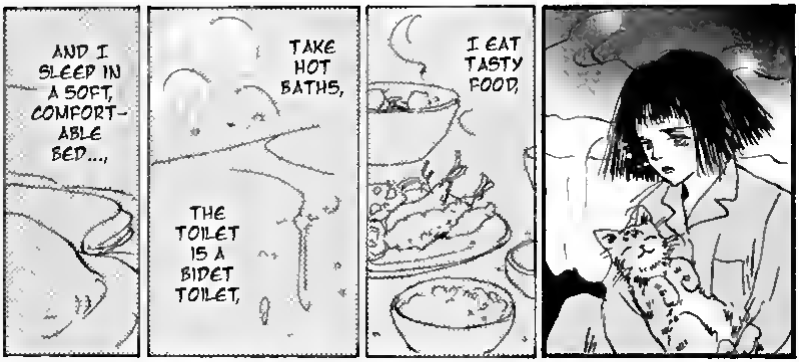
WHY?

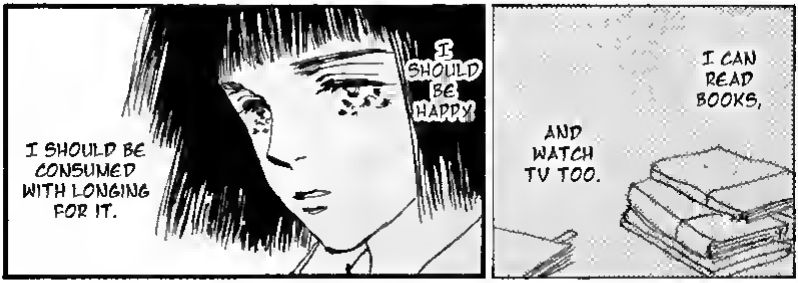
I'll tell your fan girls
I DIDN'T KNOW.
HUH?
YES.
ARAMAKI, DO YOU LIKE DOGS?
BUT YOU DON'T KEEP ONE, DO YOU?


MY LIFE WITH THE DOGS, AND OUR LONG JOURNEY TOGETHER,
WAS IT ALL JUST A DREAM ...?
I DIDN'T MEET HANA-SAN AND THE OTHERS, EITHER.
I DIDN'T MEET FUBUKI AND MITSURU-SAN.
THEN, NOBODY WOULD HAVE HAD TO DIE.
I'D BE HAPPY IF IT WAS A DREAM.
...BUT STILL,
I CAN PLAY BASEBALL WITH FUBUKI AGAIN.
WE CAN MEET AT THE KOSHIEN TOURNA-MENT.
I'D RATHER I DIDN'T SEE THEM.
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF NONE OF THAT HAD HAPPENED
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF DEATHS.
REALLY A LOT.

WHY AM I CRYING?
WHY...
IS THE THOUGHT...
SO PAINFUL...
THAT I DIDN'T EXPERIENCE THAT TIME...

THAT MY HEART BLEEDS?


AND I SLEEP IN A SOFT, COMFORT-ABLE BED...,
TAKE HOT BATHS,
THE TOILET IS A BIDET TOILET,
I EAT TASTY FOOD,


I SHOULD BE HAPPY.
I SHOULD BE CONSUMED WITH LONGING FOR IT.
I CAN READ BOOKS,
AND WATCH TV TOO.

WHO WAS NATSU AGAIN?
SUM-MER..
ISN'T IT?
MOM, YOUR STEW IS YUMMY.
I CAN COOK IT FOR YOU ANYTIME.
AND WHO WAS ARASHI?
WHO WAS HOTARU?
YOU MEAN THE WORD FOR "TY-PHOON*?"
HUH?
HOTARU* IS A SUMMER TERM, ISN'T IT?
NATSU* ...
IT'LL TASTE EVEN BETTER WHEN IT'S COLD.
IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN, WE HAVE CURRY TOO...

*Natsu means summer in Japanese

*Hotaru means firefly in Japanese
Arashi means storm or typhoon in Japanese

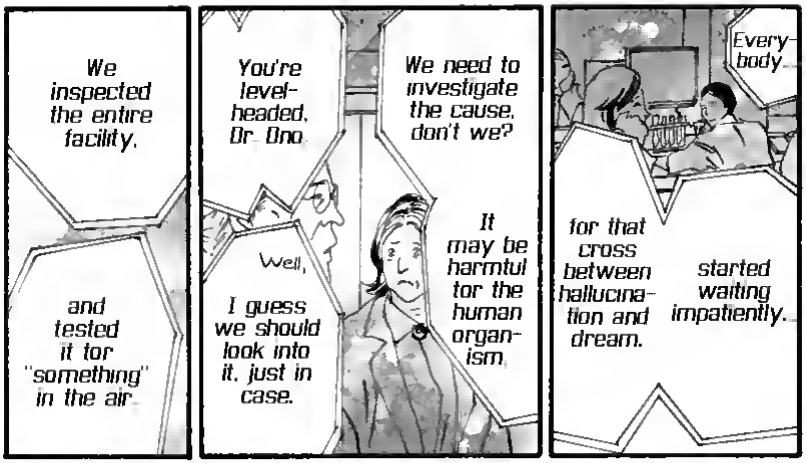
WHO WERE THEY AGAIN...?

About ten years have passed since mankind was eliminated.

It's impossible to go outside
We weren't contacted from anywhere, either
We don't know the state of Kagijima.
our dull daily life doesn't hold any flicker of hope for us.
Day in and day out.
hum
Well
There was one change.
but the cases of hallucinations have increased.
I've mentioned this before.
He grew kind of old.

Some of us just fell asleep
We assumed that it must be because we all were mentally exhausted.
Like the feeling that you heard some sound,
or seeing your surroundings ...distorted.
At first, they were really short,
so that you'd think that it was your imagination.
What all of them had in common,
was that they were happy hallucinations.
But little by little, they became more vivid...
Soon, all of us started saying that we had some kind of hallucination.

I'd love to, too.
I ate something really tasty.
And sweets
Lots of fruit.
The one you broke up with?
I married my girl-friend
Well, yes.
Nice, huh?
Where to?
Heh, lucky you.
I went on a journey together with my family.
ha ha ha
To a southern island
Just...
the way I remember her.
I met my mother.
She was young and pretty.
She died long ago.


We inspected the entire facility,
and tested it for "something" in the air.
You're level-headed, Dr. Ono.
Well, I guess we should look into it, just in case.
We need to investigate the cause, don't we?
It may be harmful for the human organism.
Everybody...
started waiting impatiently.
for that cross between hallucination and dream.

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Mountains Chapter 9

【—Choice—】

Rain-Over Paradise
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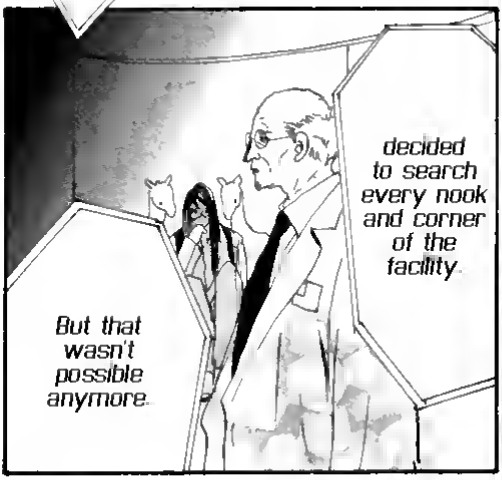
CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO EAT THE MUSH-ROOMS...
BUT I...
I sipped my water, but there's only a little left, now
WHICH ARE FOOD FOR THE LAVAE...
Grow
I'M HUNGRY...
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE I BEEN HERE...?
HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED?
Or has it really only been a short while?
twitch
I'M GOING CRAZY.
NO, I IMAGINED IT.
MY MIND IS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.
SOME-BODY, HELP ME.
EEK!
IT MOVED?!

DO THEY WANT ME TO FOLLOW THEM?
PROBABLY TO GET MORE MUSH-ROOMS...

tap
tap
AH!

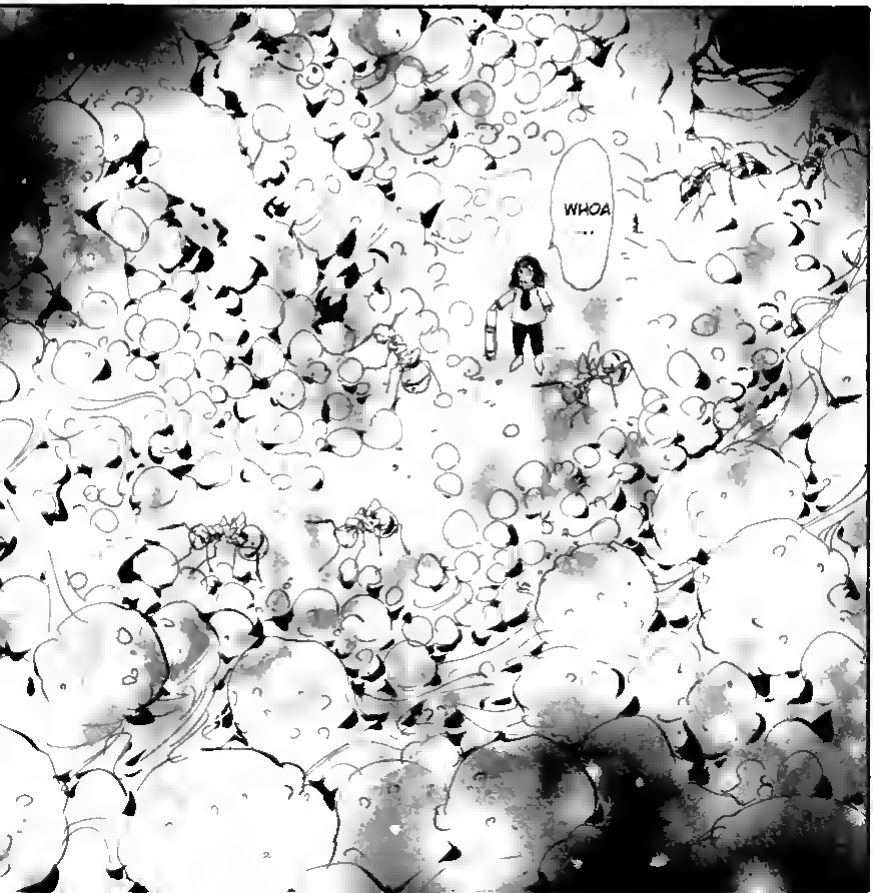
We...
MAYBE I'M ALREADY FINISHED
There aren't any old men around, though.
BUT FOR SOME REASON IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I HEAR SOME OLD MAN TALKING...


But that wasn't possible anymore.
decided to search every nook and corner of the facility.

WHEN IT TURNS DARK...
MY LAMP WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.
I'LL REALLY BE DONE FOR.

The ants..
gah
have grown even bigger.
That's right, Mikura-kun, it's your fault.
The ants I raised which have escaped...
It's the ants
Direc-tor,
it's full of holes.
I wonder if they lead some-where...?
Look, that's a lizard worm.
The creatures that prey upon the ants have become bigger, too..
It's huge.
And not only the ants..
Direc-tor!
Please take a look at this over here!
They shouldn't be able to go to the surface...
So how do they feed them-selves?
Ants build large swarms.
At this size, they'll need big amounts of food.
They show no interest in attacking us
Neither the ants nor the lizard worm
It looks like they don't see us as prey.

Direc-
tor
look.
It's
amaz-
ing
hep
I
KEEP...
BUT
THERE
ISN'T
ANYONE
NEARBY...
HEARING
VOICES.

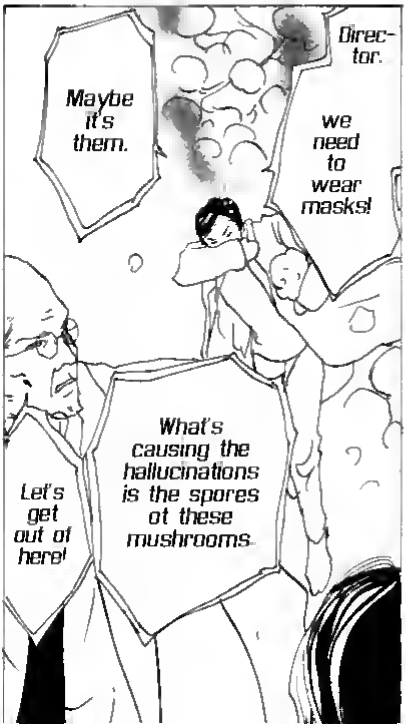

WHOA
...

Yes please do that, Mikura-kun
It's sticky
I'll take one of the mush-rooms to examine it

IT'S STRANGE.
SOMEONE IS EXPLAINING THINGS...

These are mush-rooms, right?
They're snow-white
That's because there are ants which grow mush-rooms, too.
These seem to be such

Wah!
POOF


Maybe it's them.
Direc-tor, we need to wear masks!
What's causing the hallucinations is the spores of these mushrooms.
Let's get out of here!

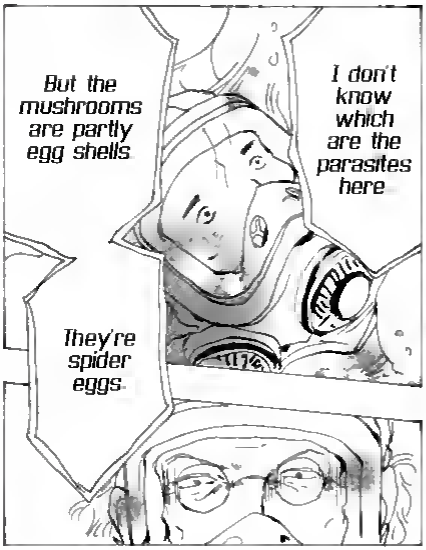
The ceiling is high.
The light doesn't reach it.
This must be a natural tunnel-shaped cave.

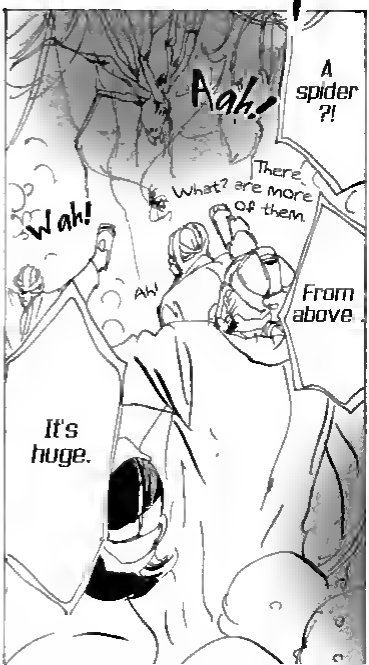
IS THIS PLACE?
...SCARY...
IT'S REALLY...
WHAT...
HALLU-CINA-TIONS?!
IS THIS A HALLUCI-NATION, TOO?
THE ANTS ARE ANXIOUS.
We ventured into that grove of mush-rooms
to look for him
which we'd named "Ants Field"
whirr
It's been three days since then
has disap-peared
And now Mikura-kun, who'd examined those mush-rooms..
Are you here, Mikura-kun?
Mikura-kun!

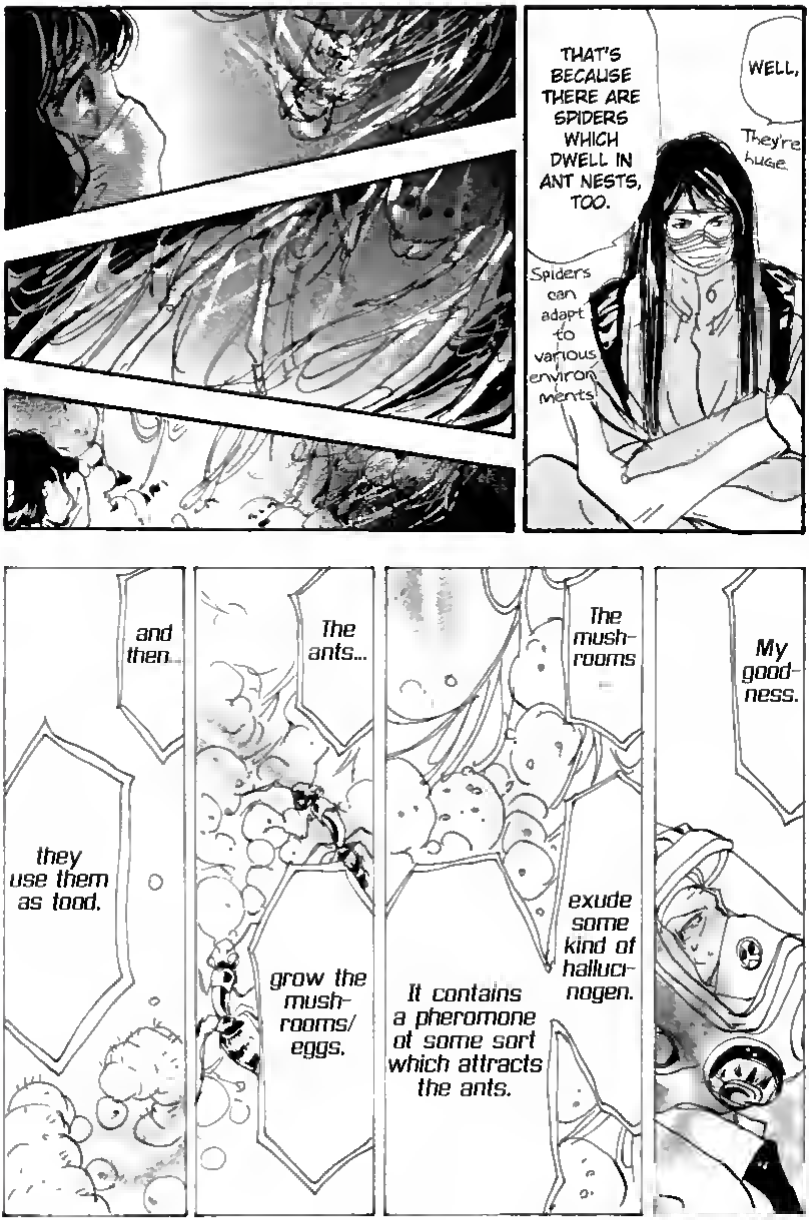
Director
It's Mikura-san
look
Lately when someone starts hallucinating
they just won't snap out of it anymore
Masks are imperative now
What's this...?
Mikura-kun!
Wah, it's sticky
What's wrong?

No
The ants? Or a lizard worm?
Attacked? By what?
I was attacked and when I came to, I was here
I'm sorry
Oh Mikura-kun, are you okay?
Direc-tor—
aren't mushrooms
these...
Direc-tor,
I CAN'T STOP TREM-BLING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME■?
I'M SCARED...

AAH!
A SHRIEK ?
NO.
Eek! Eek!
Wah!
WAS IT INSIDE THE RECORDING?

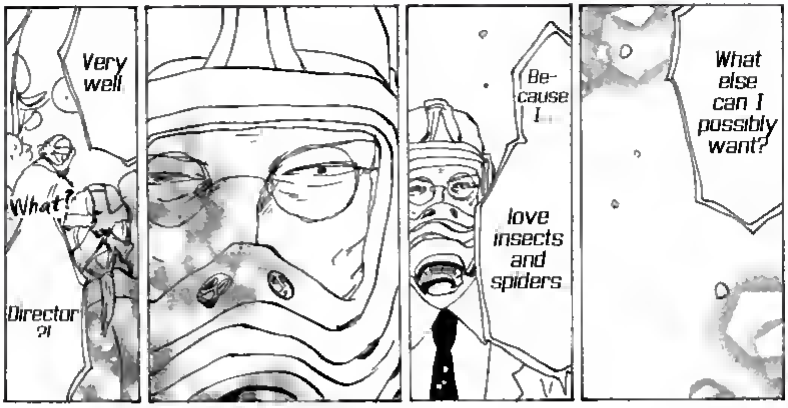

But the mushrooms are partly egg shells
I don't know which are the parasites here
They're spider eggs

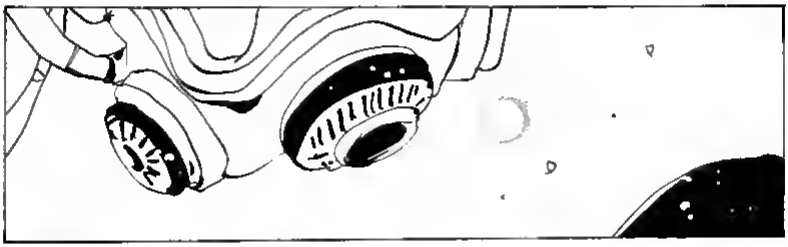

Aah!
A spider ?!
There What? are more of them
Wah!
Ah!
From above
It's huge.


WELL,
They're huge.
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE SPIDERS WHICH DWELL IN ANT NESTS, TOO.
Spiders can adapt to various environments.
and then...
they use them as food.
The ants...
grow the mushrooms/ eggs.
The mushrooms
exude some kind of hallucinogen.
It contains a pheromone of some sort which attracts the ants.
My goodness.

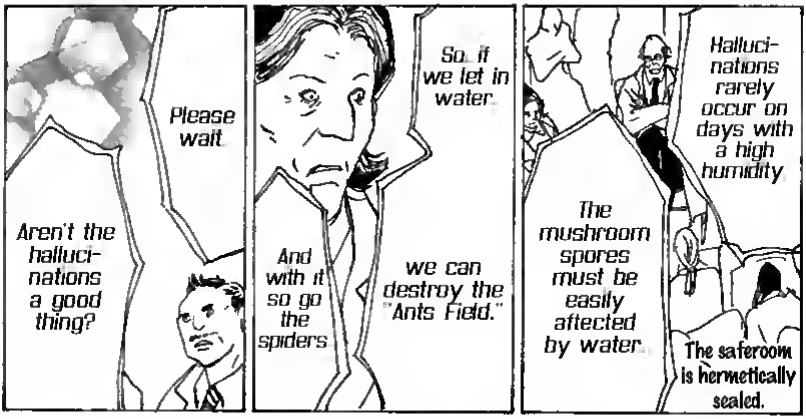
the spiders are protected from other living things..
Like lizard worms
Since there's such a large number of ants around.
the spiders gather here to feed upon the ants.
At the same time..
they also feed upon each other.
and protecting each other.
While living together..
Director will you do me a favour?
Are we part of that symbiosis?
does that leave us?
Where
that are locked in here?
Is that the only option of surviving beings—

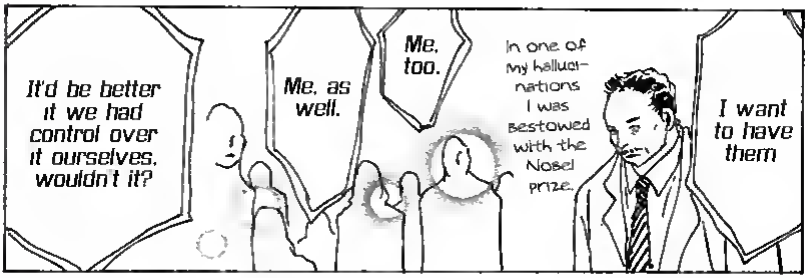
Uh..
No.
first we need to get you out of this.
We're taking you with us...
It has cracks, so hallucinations fade in and out.
But can you remove my mask?
I'm sorry.
No.
we have to try.
I wonder if we can free him.
They're deep-rooted..
in his blood vessels.
and I get warm meals, and the sun warms me.
I'm with my family.
I'm a child again.
It feels nice
It's okay.
Just leave me the way I am.
It feels nice?

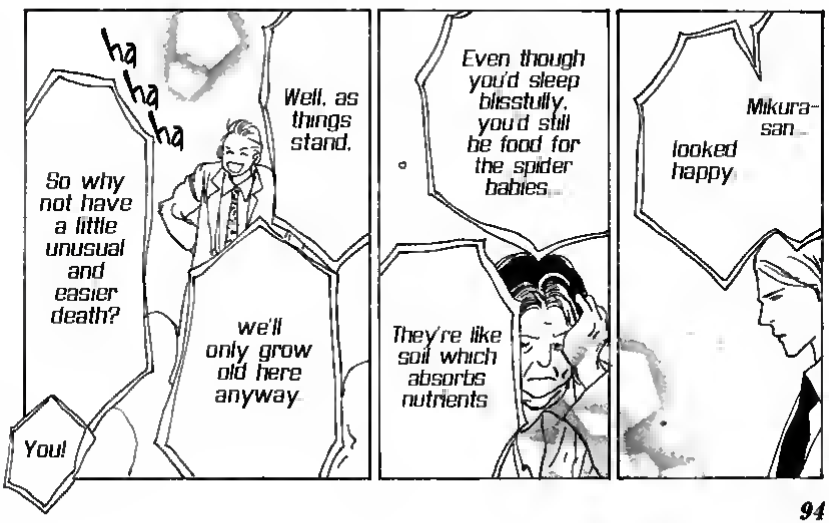

Very well
What?
Director ?!
Be-cause I
love insects and spiders
What else can I possibly want?



hummm
I'll inform the others
Assemble everybody in the saferoom.
He
Director !
can decide for himself

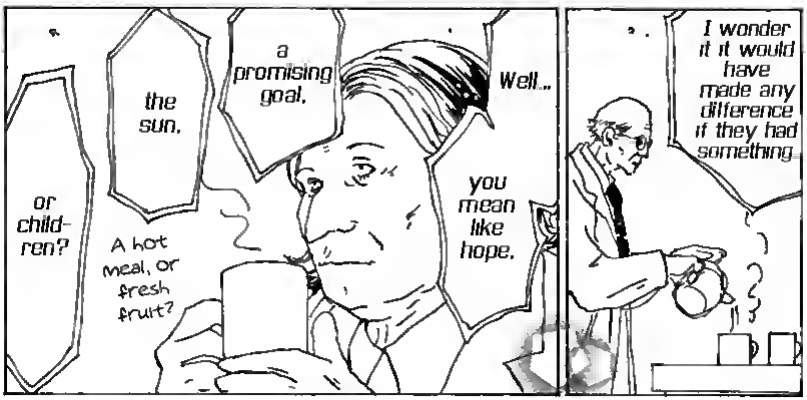

Please wait.
Aren't the hallucinations a good thing?
So, if we let in water,
we can destroy the "Ants Field."
And with it so go the spiders.
Hallucinations rarely occur on days with a high humidity.
The mushroom spores must be easily affected by water.
The saferoom is hermetically sealed.

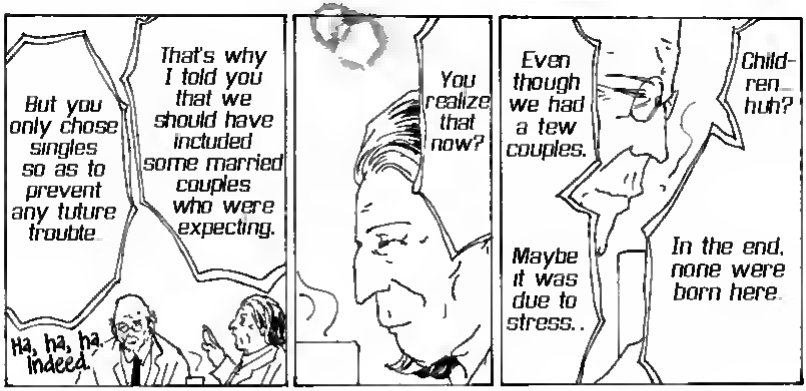

It'd be better if we had control over it ourselves, wouldn't it?
Me, as well.
Me, too.
In one of my hallucinations I was bestowed with the Nobel prize.
I want to have them


ha ha ha
So why not have a little unusual and easier death?
You!
Well, as things stand,
we'll only grow old here anyway.
Even though you'd sleep blissfully, you'd still be food for the spider babies.
They're like soil which absorbs nutrients.
Mikura-san looked happy.

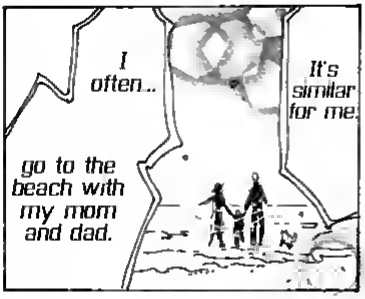
If we could wirelessly communicate with each other all around the place, right?
It'd be convenient.
Our goal is a robot that can climb stairs as well as pass rough paths
And we can't use cell phones here, either.
We only have wired phones.
Or did you create a new one? Everybody else is just loitering around
How often are you guys going to improve the cleaning robots?
We installed a surveillance camera
Next, we plan on making them so they can speak
We applied a camera and a loudspeaker
Because we don't have anything else to do anyway
A book. I'll keep it.
So, basically each of us can do as we please.
We won't be able to present the results of our studies in our lifetime anymore
Five years have passed since then
whirr
THE NEXT DISK.
Show me a little more
If the young folks have a future.
I don't know
I see.
So only a few people are left
Another two have disappeared.
Only, we're growing old quickly.
The world hasn't changed

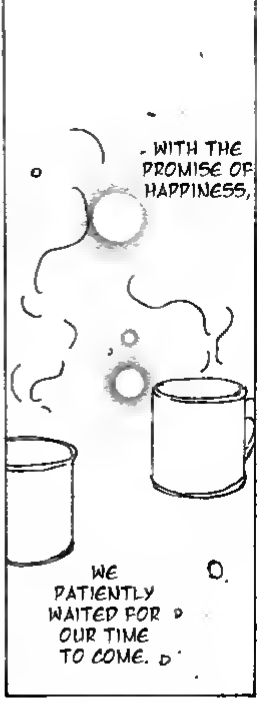
EVEN THOUGH THEY UNDER-STOOD THAT THEY'D BE DEVOURED,
THEY CHOSE THE DREAMS.
ONE BY ONE, THEY ALL DECIDED ON GOING TO SLEEP.
ABSORBED IN THEIR HAPPY DELIRIUM,
THEY WENT TO THEIR LONG REST.


Well...
a promising goal.
the sun.
or children?
A hot meal, or fresh fruit?
you mean like hope.
I wonder if it would have made any difference if they had something.


But you only chose singles so as to prevent any future trouble.
That's why I told you that we should have included some married couples who were expecting.
Ha, ha, ha. Indeed.
You realize that now?
Even though we had a few couples.
Children... huh?
Maybe it was due to stress..
In the end, none were born here.

my son who died long ago has come to visit me.
Lately


I often...
go to the beach with my mom and dad.
It's similar for me.


- WITH THE PROMISE OF HAPPINESS,
WE PATIENTLY WAITED FOR OUR TIME TO COME.

Before, I often would hallucinate about getting tremendous ovations from all over the world for the BIG success of "Project Sado" Because many people survived.
They're amazing, aren't they?
Those spores
ha ha ha
ha ha
Because even happier times
are coming our way

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
huff
huff
It's hard to walk here
I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
plop
plop
THE ANTS ARE DISTRACTED BY THE SPIDERS.
I NEED TO FLEE NOW...
huff
huff
huff
plop
plop
ANTS AND SPIDERS!
I HATE BOTH...
I TRIPPED OVER SOMETHING HARD...
A STONE ...?
plop
plop
EVEN THOUGH THE MUSH-ROOMS ARE SOFT?
plop
Eck!
TRIP

we don't have any happy memories.
May-be..
They're probably all gone by now
How many are we including us?
The director and Dr. Ono left, too.
That's because the old geezers were weak-minded.
how long..
we can carry on like this
I won-der..
I'm happy now.

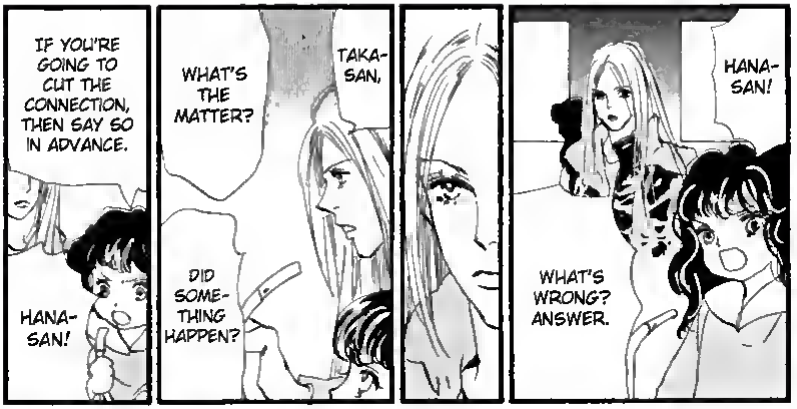
of the recording.
End...
AAA

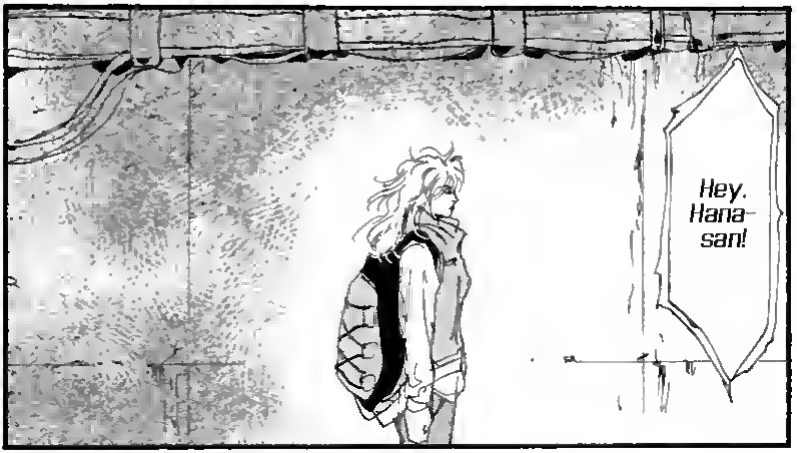
AAAAAH!
A SCREAM ...
WHERE ARE YOU?!
AAAH!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
THE VOICE FROM BEFORE ?
SO, IT WASN'T INSIDE THE RECORDING?!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE...
ARE...

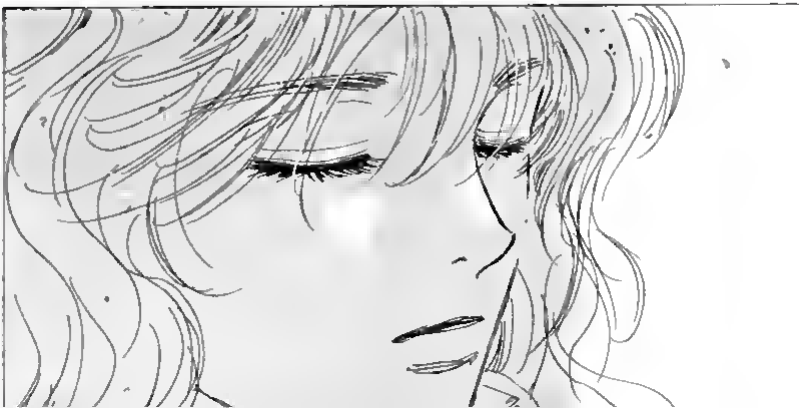
Aaah...!
creak
Hello.
I'm the improved cleaning robot. OH IO.
HELLO.
It's like a small animal. Cute.
It startled me.
They call me Chefe Chefe from Chefeus.
creak
AH...
YOU'RE ONE OF THE FELLOWS WHICH APPEARED IN THAT RECORDING.
Should I connect you?
HUH ...?
AAAAH!

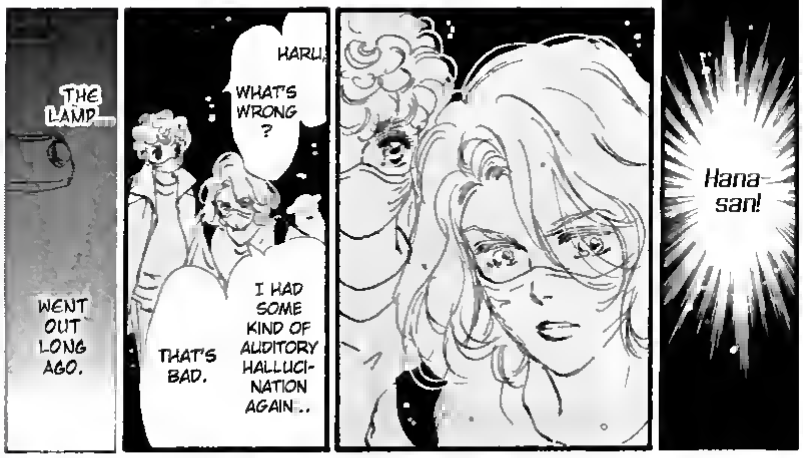
AAH!
AAH!
Um...
Is there someone there?
Are you okay?
Who was the one..
who uttered that shriek?
Are you in danger?
Where are you?

I'M...
GENGORO FROM TEAM SUMMER.


IF YOU'RE GOING TO CUT THE CONNECTION, THEN SAY SO IN ADVANCE.
HANA-SAN!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
TAKA-SAN,
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
HANA-SAN!
WHAT'S WRONG? ANSWER.


Hey, Hana-san!




THE LAMP
WENT OUT LONG AGO.
HARU!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I HAD SOME KIND OF AUDITORY HALLUCINATION AGAIN...
THAT'S BAD.
Hana-san!

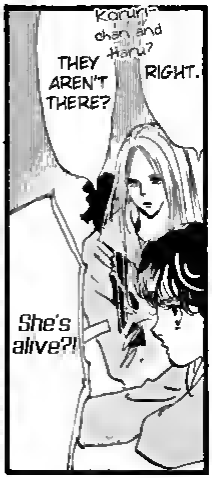
DON'T LET GO...
OF MY HAND.
I'LL GET OUT OF HERE,
TOGETHER WITH KORURI.[2]
BUT THAT'S OKAY.
I CAN SEE WITH MY EARS.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME.

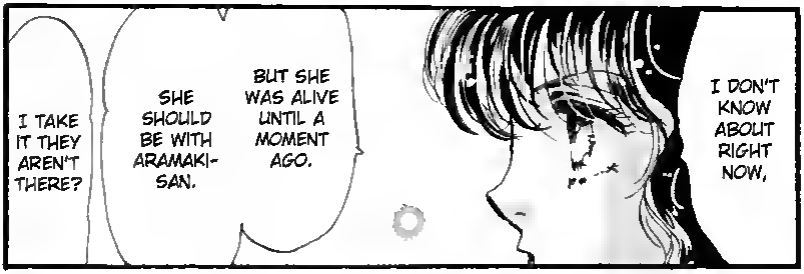
I HEARD SOMETHING TOO...
HARU ...
IT'S AN AUDITORY HALLUCINATION.
Come on!
HANA-SAN!
I HEARD... SOMEONE CALL FOR HANA.
SEEMS TO BE DEEP.
click
click
There's no echo coming back
A PRECIPICE MAYBE.
WATCH OUT. THERE'S A TERRACE.
UH...
OH...
BLAM
BLAM

Hana-san.
I'll cut the connec-tion.
answer! Come on!
HARU,
UP THERE!
A SMALL LIGHT.
woof
OH,
HUH?
THAT VOICE.
KORURI-CHAN?
Maybe.
IS THERE SOMEONE THERE?!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
EXCUSE ME!

THE HIBARI WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING THE ENTIRE TIME?!
HIBARI?!
I'M...
HIBARI NIIGUSA FROM TEAM SPRING.
WHO ARE YOU?
Haru from team spring.
It's me!
Huh? There's two of them?
The voices are distant
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SOME-WHERE ABOUT THERE?!
SAY, ARE HANA-SAN OR ARAMAKI-SAN...
NEVER MIND.
Speaking of which, someone has probably mentioned that before
HARU AS IN SPRING?
That's weird.
Natsu as in summer is weird, too
BY HANA...
YOU MEAN HANA FROM TEAM SPRING?!
HANA?!

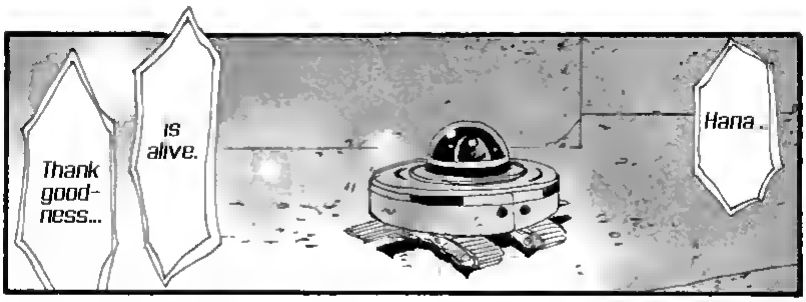
HANA...
IS ALIVE?!

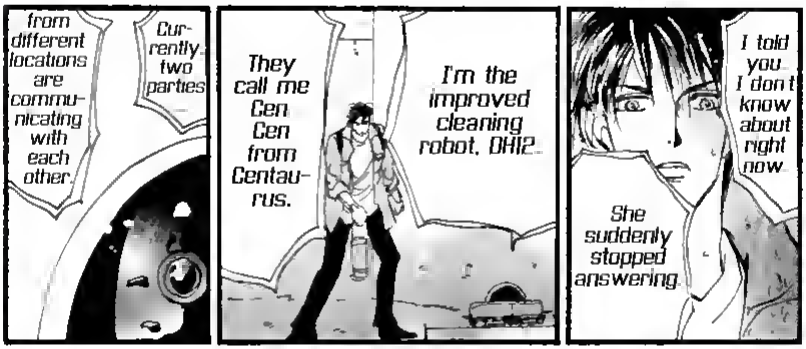

Karuna-chan and Haru?
THEY AREN'T THERE?
RIGHT.
She's alive?!


I TAKE IT THEY AREN'T THERE?
SHE SHOULD BE WITH ARAMAKI-SAN.
BUT SHE WAS ALIVE UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW,

HANA...
ARA-MAKI-SAN...
IS ALIVE...
HARU!
HAS FOUND HER...

Hana...
is alive.
SHE'S ALIVE...
HARU.




from different locations are communicating with each other.
Currently two parties...
They call me Cen Cen from Centaurus.
I'm the improved cleaning robot, DH12.
I told you I don't know about right now.
She suddenly stopped answering.

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Mountains Chapter 10

[— Connection —]

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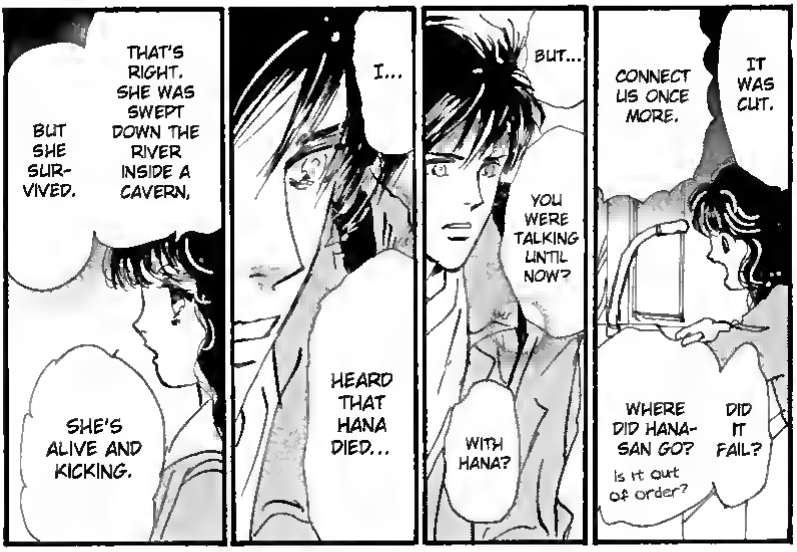
YES,
PLEASE.
Begin the trans-mission
If you please.
UM...
How? Where do I turn to while speaking?
HELLO ...
"HELLO" SOUNDS KIND OF WEIRD...
...UM,
SORRY FOR THE INTER-RUPTION.
Can you hear me?
I don't know who's at the other end.
but did you just mention Hana?

I'M AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HERS.
I'M ARASHI AOTA FROM TEAM SUMMER B.
THAT'S THE ONE, BUT...
WHO ARE YOU?
DO YOU...
MEAN HANA SUGURONO FROM TEAM SPRING?
YOU SAID THAT HANA WAS ALIVE?
IS THIS LINE CONNECTED TO HANA, TOO?!
Well, thank you for back then.
UM, WHAT IS THE SITUATION?
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE.
HUH?
Hibari-chan?!
ARASHI-SAN?!
I'M HIBARI.

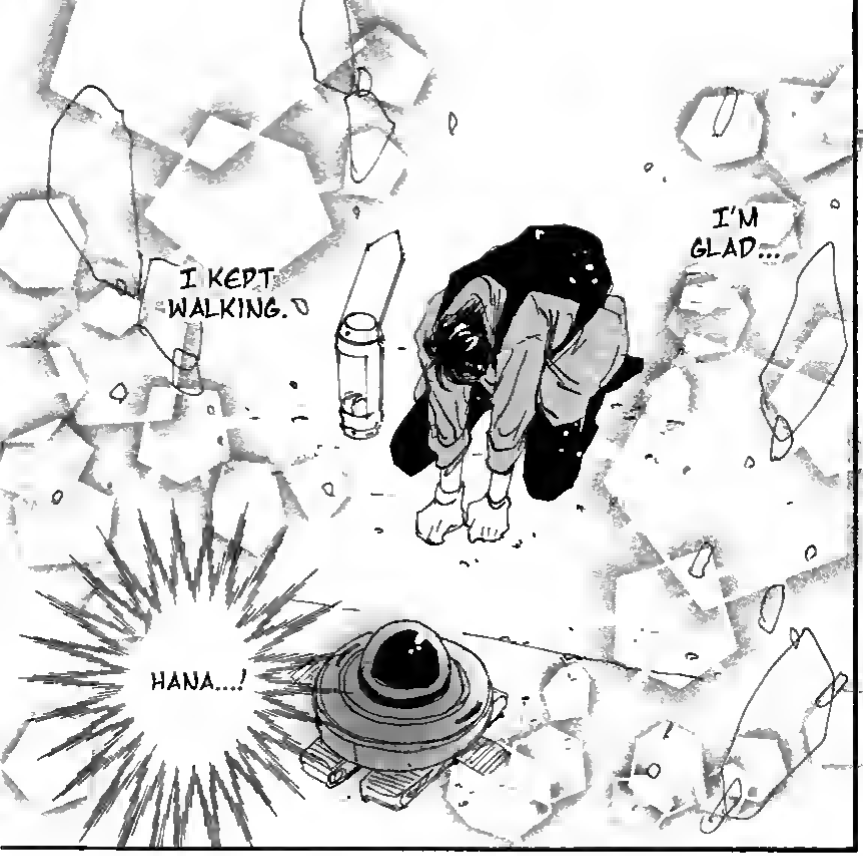
If nobody responds,
the transmission will be cut.

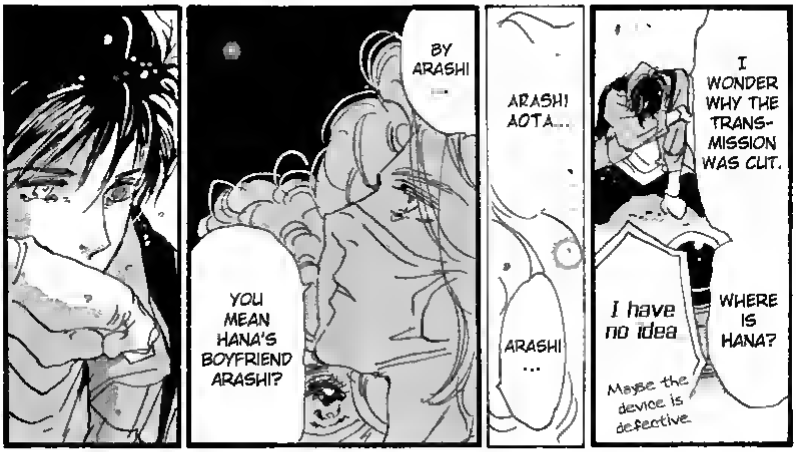

IT WAS CUT.
CONNECT US ONCE MORE.
BUT...
YOU WERE TALKING UNTIL NOW?
WITH HANA?
I...
HEARD THAT HANA DIED...
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE WAS SWEPT DOWN THE RIVER INSIDE A CAVERN,
BUT SHE SURVIVED.
SHE'S ALIVE AND KICKING.
DID IT FAIL?
WHERE DID HANA-SAN GO?
Is it out of order?

SHE'S ALIVE...
EVEN IN DANGER OF DEATH, SHE'S STRONG-WILLED, OFFENSIVE AND POSITIVE.
She opposed me without hesitation, too. Surprisingly, I don't dislike her
SHE'S AS ROBUST AS A COCK-ROACH,
SO SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S AWESOME.
SHE'S ALIVE...

EVEN IN A WORLD LIKE THIS, SHE HOLDS HER GROUND.
SHE'S ALIVE...
THAT'S SO LIKE HANA.

SHE SURVIVED FOR ME.
SHE'S ALIVE...
I'M GLAD...
DIDN'T DIE, EITHER.
THAT I...
WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
I BELIEVED IN HER...

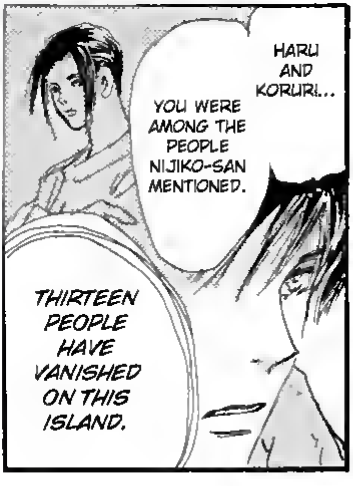

I KEPT WALKING.
I'M GLAD...
HANA...!


BY ARASHI
YOU MEAN HANA'S BOYFRIEND ARASHI?
ARASHI AOTA...
ARASHI ...
I WONDER WHY THE TRANS-MISSION WAS CUT.
I have no idea
WHERE IS HANA?
Maybe the device is defective

ha-ha
YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S DIFFERENT NOW?
AMAZ-ING.
blun-t

YES.

HARU?
SO, YOU'RE ALIVE ...


HARU AND KORURI...
YOU WERE AMONG THE PEOPLE NIJIKO-SAN MENTIONED.
THIRTEEN PEOPLE HAVE VANISHED ON THIS ISLAND.

AND AYU-SAN FROM TEAM SUMMER A.
OVER HERE, IT'S ME...
Kuroda
AT THIS PLACE.

UM,
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
AND ME... KORURI FROM TEAM SUMMER.
HERE ARE HARU FROM TEAM SPRING ...

two people
THEN, HARU AND MOMOTA FROM TEAM SPRING.
plus one person
AND FINALLY, KANAME-SAN FROM TEAM SUMMER B.
WHO IS PREG-NANT.
RYUSEI, AND KURUMI-SAN...
RAN-SAN, AKIO, AKANE-SAN, KARITA, SAKUYA,
ALL MEMBERS OF TEAM AUTUMN.
seven people
Team Summer A, three people
IT'S GENGORO-KUN, KORURI-CHAN, AND BAN-CHAN.
FROM MY TEAM,
YOU...
WERE TAKING CARE OF HANA.
THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE GLAD... THAT HANA IS ALIVE..
TEAM SPRING ...
IS HANA'S TEAM, RIGHT?
FROM HER TEAM WHO KNOW HER.
THAT I'VE MET PEOPLE...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME...

WHAT KIND OF LIFE HAS SHE LED?
HOW... DID SHE FARE?
IN THIS WORLD?
HOW DID SHE SURVIVE...

What are you whispering about?
Speak loud and clear.
I can't hear you if you speak under your breath, Haru.

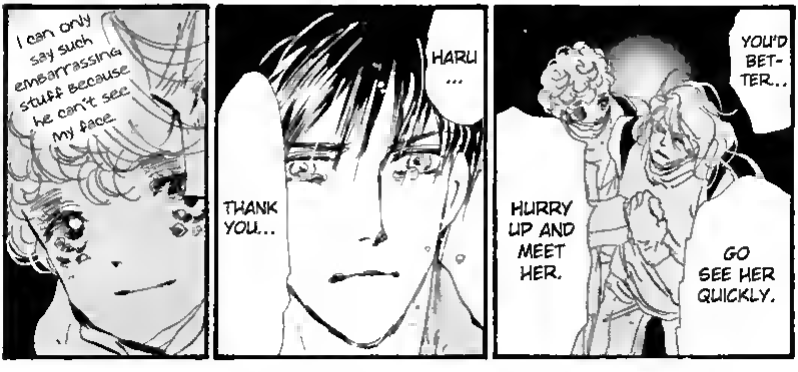
HARU?
I THOUGHT THAT HE WAS MORE THE BOSSY TYPE.
YOU NEED GUTS.
BECAUSE IF YOU GO OUT WITH A GIRL LIKE HANA,

IT'S PLEASANT TO THE EAR.
...HE HAS A KIND VOICE.
BUT HE ALSO SOUNDS KIND OF WELL-MANNERED AND SERIOUS.

YOU SEE,
INFATUATED WITH HANA.
I WAS A LITTLE...

I WAS ASHAMED OF FEELING... THAT WAY...
BUT WHEN I ASSUMED THAT HANA WAS DEAD.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WISHED...
ARASHI WOULD DROP DEAD SOME-WHERE
YEAH, I KNOW.
IT'S THANKS TO YOU, KORURI,
THAT ARASHI SURVIVED...
THAT I CAN THINK NOW...
FOR HANA'S SAKE.

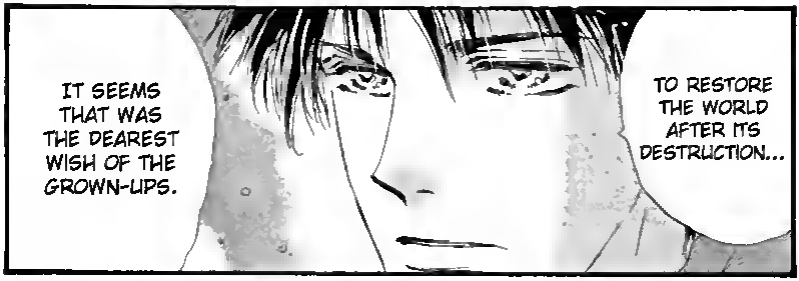
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, HANA!
ARASHI!
SHE WAS ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU.
SHE KEPT TALKING ABOUT YOU.
I think...
that she just worked so hard...
and pulled herself together...
to see you again.


I can only say such embarrassing stuff because he can't see my face.
HARU ...
THANK YOU...
YOU'D BETTER...
HURRY UP AND MEET HER.
GO SEE HER QUICKLY.

HARU AND THE OTHERS WENT MISSING ON A MYSTERIOUS ISLAND.
ANYWAY, I TRIED TO RECONCILE EVERYONE'S SITUATION.
No way!
EVEN KURUMI-SAN?!
EVERY-ONE EXCEPT NIJIKO-SAN?!
TEAM SUMMER B WENT UNDERGROUND IN SEARCH OF THEM.
I'M ON SADO.
APPARENTLY, IT'S AN EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM.
I'm not sure but
What was all that about?
AND IT WAS CONNECT-ED TO SADO.
THAT ISLAND WAS CALLED KAGI-JIMA,
WHERE SOME DIRECTOR GUY SPOKE ABOUT IT.
I WATCHED A RECORD-ING...

I DON'T KNOW...
IF HANA CUT THE TRANS-MISSION HERSELF
OR IF AN ACCIDENT HAPPENED
I'M IN NO POSITION TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.

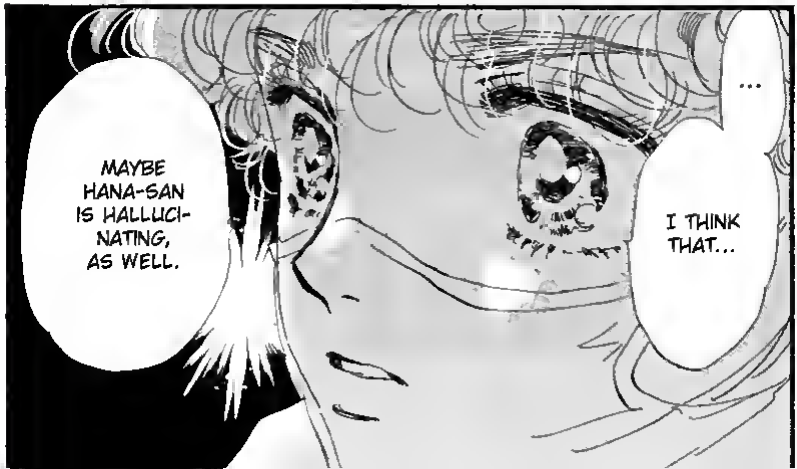
PROJECT "OPEN SADO."
THERE'S A HUGE SHELTER ON SADO ISLAND.
ALL KINDS OF LIVING BEINGS WERE GATHERED THERE.
IN ORDER TO PROTECT IT AND OPEN IT UP LATER,
SOME PEOPLE WERE LIVING ON KAGIJIMA.


IT SEEMS THAT WAS THE DEAREST WISH OF THE GROWN-UPS.
TO RESTORE THE WORLD AFTER ITS DESTRUCTION...

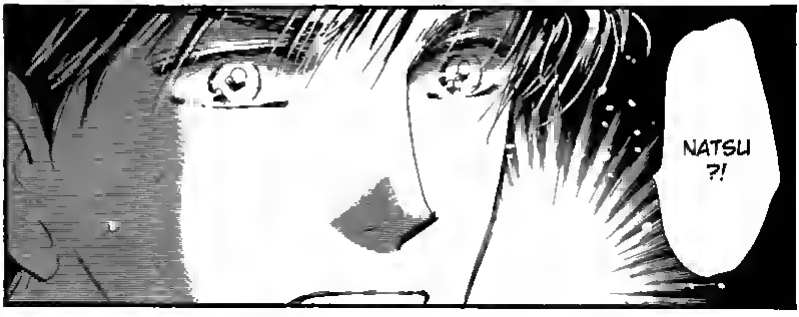
I WAS TOLD TO PROTECT SADO.
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY MEANT.
BUT...
HALF OF SADO...
HAS SUNK.
SO, THIS MEANS ...
WE GOT LOST SOMEWHERE BETWEEN...
KAGI-JIMA AND SADO?
BUT EVEN SO...
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING LEFT.
YEAH.
I HEARD ABOUT THAT, TOO.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED.
AND THEN, THERE WAS THE ATTACK OF HUGE ANTS.
ANTS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY ANTS.
ME NEI-THER.
Are they going to attack us?

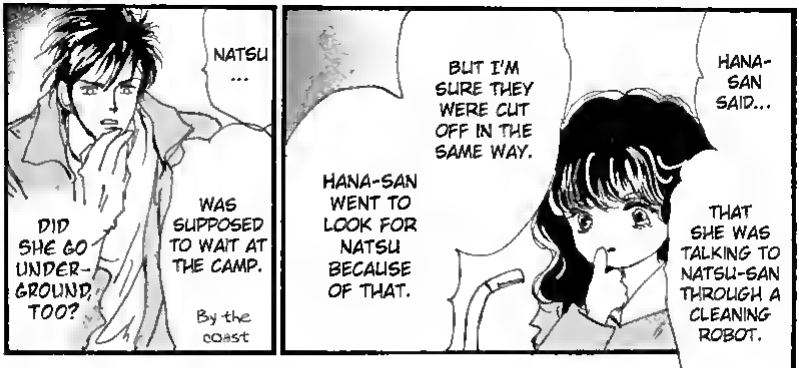
I...
MET A FRIEND WHO PASSED AWAY.
HALLUCI-NATIONS? WHAT KIND?
It seems to be different for everyone
BE-SIDES,
WE...
HAD HALLUCI-NATIONS HERE.

And we never had them near water.
What's real, and what's not?
ARE THE ANTS A HALLUCI-NATION, TOO?
HUH ?
It looks like wearing a mask helps a little.
I KEPT HEARING A PIANO PLAY. The surround-ings were surreal, too.
ONLY I COULD HEAR THE SOUND.
That's what lured us away.


MAYBE HANA-SAN IS HALLUCI-NATING, AS WELL.
...
I THINK THAT...

DO YOU THINK THAT NATSU-SAN IS AFFECTED BY THEM, TOO?
THE HALLUCI-NATIONS.
WHAT KIND OF ILL EFFECTS DO THOSE HALLUCI-NATIONS ...
Ah, that's right!
HALLUCINA-TIONS...?
ONE MOMENT, I'M REJOIC-ING THAT HANA IS SAFE,
AND IN THE NEXT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER...
WHAT THE HECK?

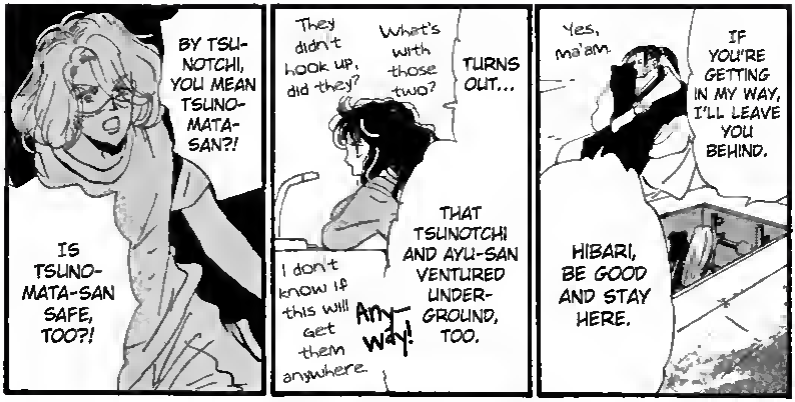

NATSU ?!


NATSU ...
DID SHE GO UNDER-GROUND, TOO?
WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT AT THE CAMP.
By the coast
HANA-SAN WENT TO LOOK FOR NATSU BECAUSE OF THAT.
BUT I'M SURE THEY WERE CUT OFF IN THE SAME WAY.
HANA-SAN SAID...
THAT SHE WAS TALKING TO NATSU-SAN THROUGH A CLEANING ROBOT.

DIDN'T BOTAN-SAN AND THE OTHERS RETURN, EITHER?
KNOWING NATSU, SHE'D WORRY ABOUT THEM...
WHAT ABOUT SEMI-MARU?
ARE SEMIMARU AND HOTARU-CHAN...
WITH HER?
NO CLUE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
WHERE YOU ALL ARE.
BUT HOW CAN I ACCOM-PLISH THAT?
ANYWAY, I WANT TO MEET HANA,
IS THERE ANY HINT ABOUT HER CURRENT LOCATION?
IF SEMIMARU ACCOM-PANIED THEM...
I'M SURE HE'LL PROTECT THE GIRLS.

HANA-SAN THIS, HANA-SAN THAT.
NOBODY IS WORRIED ABOUT TAKA-SAN.
IT LEADS FURTHER DOWN...
TSU-NOTCHI!
How did you get here?
WE ALREADY KNOW ALL THAT.
SAYING THAT THEY WERE IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE CALLED NATSU.
AND THAT HE AND HANA WENT UNDERGROUND, FOLLOWING A CLEANING ROBOT.
Where did the robot suddenly come from?
There you are.
OH, AYU.
I CLIMBED DOWN, TOO.
I GOT URGENT DOG MAIL FROM ARAMAKI-SAN. Two messages.

I'LL GO.
BUT I'LL GO LOOK FOR TAKA-SAN.
CLUNK
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL LEAD ME TO HIM.
NOW WE CAN'T GO BACK UP ANY-MORE.
What? You moron!
I got tired of waiting
I HAD THE DOGS SUPPORT ME FOR A MOMENT.
I ALMOST CAME DOWN FLYING.
It was a hard fall
EVERY-THING IN THE PROPER TIME.
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE DOWN THERE.
It's faintly light down there
ANYWAY, I'LL GO AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
UH...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO AFTER ARAMAKI-SAN AND HANA,
THAT WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF DAYS, WOULDN'T IT?
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE PATH THEY TOOK,
BESIDES, BECAUSE OF YOU WE CAN'T RETURN TO THE SURFACE.
HAVING THE DOGS TRACE THEM.
Climbing that precipice barehanded would be a pain.
WELL, THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU.
You'd only slow me down.
YOU'D BE IN MY WAY.
HUH?
I'D FEEL BAD IF I LET YOU GO ON YOUR OWN.


BY TSUNOTCHI, YOU MEAN TSUNOMATA-SAN?!
IS TSUNOMATA-SAN SAFE, TOO?!
They didn't hook up, did they?
What's with those two?
TURNS OUT...
THAT TSUNOTCHI AND AYU-SAN VENTURED UNDERGROUND, TOO.
I don't know if this will get them anywhere.
Any way!
Yes, ma'am.
IF YOU'RE GETTING IN MY WAY, I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
HIBARI, BE GOOD AND STAY HERE.

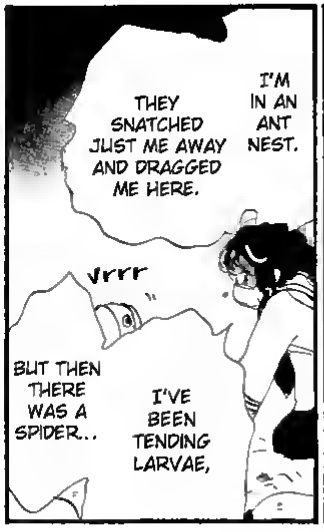
Is that true?!
THEY'RE ON A DIFFERENT MISSION NOW, THOUGH.
FUJIKO-SAN AND CHISA-SAN ARE AROUND, AS WELL.

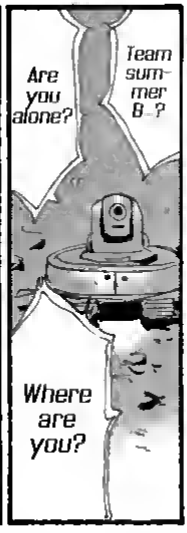
I've been clearly sensing her for awhile.
She's facing some kind of danger.
ARASHI-SAN,
ALSO ...
HOTARU-CHAN IS CLOSE BY, TOO.
THEY'RE ALL ALIVE.

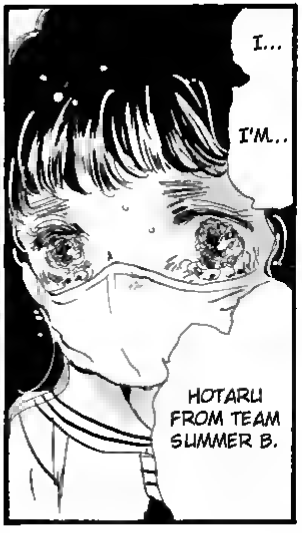
That's probably a so-called cleaning robot.
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S TALKING.

I'M...
WHO ARE YOU?
GENGORO FROM TEAM SUMMER.

Are you okay?
Can you hear me?
creak creak
Vrrr


THEY SNATCHED JUST ME AWAY AND DRAGGED ME HERE.
I'M IN AN ANT NEST.
Vrrr
BUT THEN THERE WAS A SPIDER...
I'VE BEEN TENDING LARVAE,


Are you alone?
Team summer B...?
Where are you?


I...
I'M...
HOTARU FROM TEAM SUMMER B.

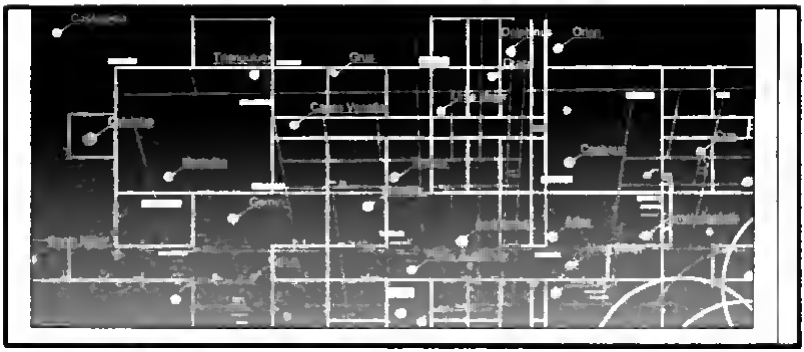
I WAS WATCHING A RECORDING.
The people
of that recording
IT WAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH A CLEANING ROBOT.
I'VE BEEN HEARING SOMETHING FOR A WHILE.
AN EXPLANATION-LIKE CONVERSATION.
UH-OH
TENDING LARVAE?
Lucky her Sounds fun.
A huge spider appeared.
and attacked the ants. After that...
UH
ALL OF THEM.
THEY'RE HERE.
THEY'RE LYING HERE.

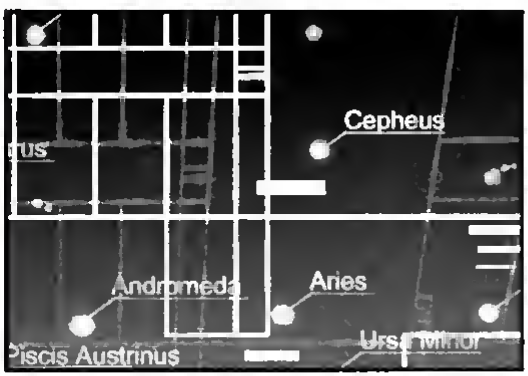
I CAN'T RELATE TO IT,
BUT...
I GUESS IT WAS THEIR OWN CHOICE...
THEY'RE WHITE AND BROWN AND SHRIVELED UP.
...
BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SMILING.
...
chug
creak
THERE ARE A LOT OF TUNNELS.
BUT WHICH ONE SHOULD I TAKE?
Hotaru-san, it seems that you were able to escape the ants and the spider.
Is there a path?
THE ANTS ARE PREOCCUPIED BY THE SPIDER RIGHT NOW...

THEN, PLEASE TRY TO FOLLOW IT FOR NOW.
IT MUST CHARGE ITSELF SOME-WHERE.
creak creak
Ha-taru-san,
is that robot moving?
HUH?
YES. It started chugging around on its own!!!
clack
IS IT... CHARG-ING?
...
...
Figures!
AH, YES!
UNDER-STOOD.
It won't be in the ant nest, I suppose.
The charging station should be in a proper room or passage.
TRY TO FOLLOW THIS ONE, TOO.
Is it really not an animal?
It's so cute.
I'LL...
Is it fully charged?
chug
Don't forget to wear a mask
Be careful!
I'm wearing one
SURE!

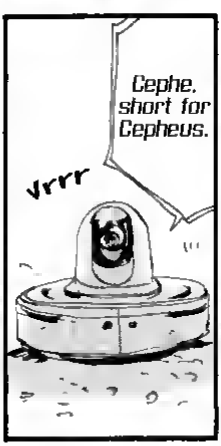
THERE AREN'T ANY ANT HOLES AROUND HERE.
Not a single one.
...
FOR SOME REASON, THE POWER WAS TURNED ON,
IT'S BRIGHTER THAN WHEN I GOT HERE.
There aren't any lamps here, huh?
AND SEVERAL THINGS STARTED WORKING...
EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE SO MANY SPIDER EGGS THERE,
I THINK I WAS WATCHING A DOCU-MENTARY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SPECIMEN OR NESTS AT ALL UNTIL NOW.
chug
THIS PLACE...
WAS A SECLUDED WORLD...
DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEY AND THE OTHER LIVING BEINGS HERE FEED UPON EACH OTHER THAT MUCH?
ARE THERE ONLY A FEW AROUND?
SPIDERS PRACTICE CANNIBALISM, TOO.

IS THIS THE ROOM WHERE THOSE TWO GUYS IMPROVED THE CLEANING ROBOTS?
THIS ROOM ...
TO THEIR LONG REST IN THE END, TOO...
THEY WENT...
I GUESS...
flicker
WAH!
HUH
WHOA!
Can they use just any of them?
Vrrr
clack
THERE'S A CHARGING STATION HERE AS WELL...
SEVERAL OTHER SMALL LIGHTS STARTED BLINKING, TOO...
What are they for?




Cepheus
Andromeda
Aries
Pisces Austrinus
Ursa Minor

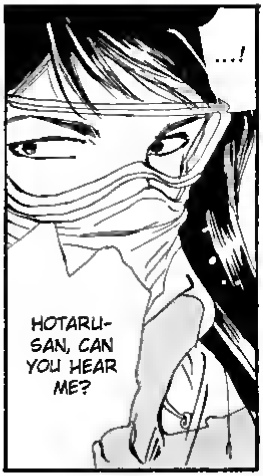
CE-PHE-US...
THIS ONE?
SO, THIS DOT IS YOU?
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S MY CURRENT LOCATION?


Cephe, short for Cepheus.
Vrrr

chug
UM, YOU...
SAID YOUR NAME WAS CEPHE, RIGHT?

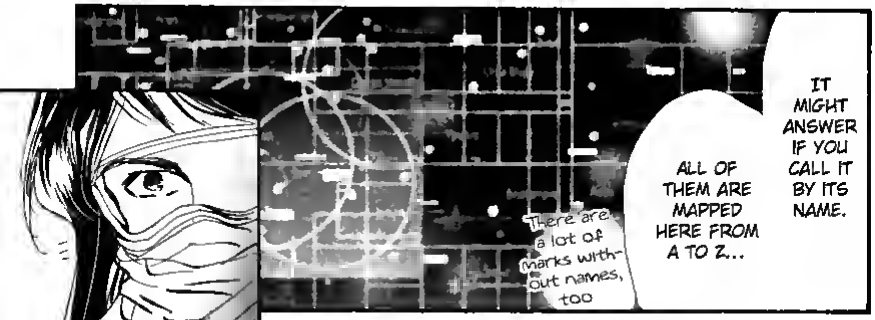
It should introduce itself. Try asking it
Vrrr
IS IT WRITTEN SOME-WHERE?
HUH ?

YES.
Do you know the name of the robot?


...!
HOTARU-SAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

UM,
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I GUESS IT CAN'T...
It won't answer
TELL YOUR QUESTION APART FROM OUR CONVER-SATION...
They aren't that smart

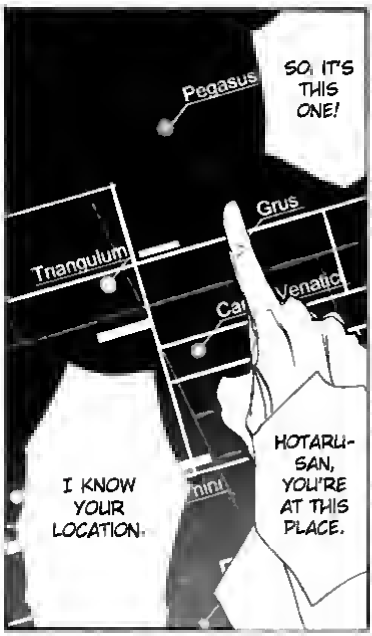

There are a lot of marks without names, too
ALL OF THEM ARE MAPPED HERE FROM A TO Z...
IT MIGHT ANSWER IF YOU CALL IT BY ITS NAME.

HOTARU-SAN,
THEY'RE IN THE ANT NEST...

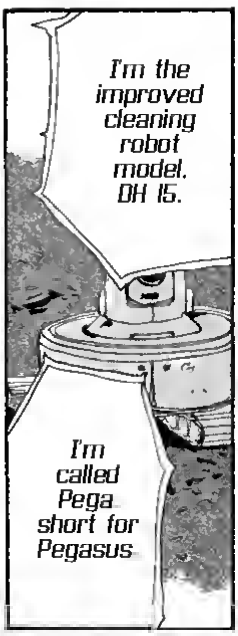
Eridanus
Cassiopeia
SOME...
OF THE MARKS ...
SIT AT SPOTS OUTSIDE OF ROOMS OR PASSAGES.
WHICH MEANS,

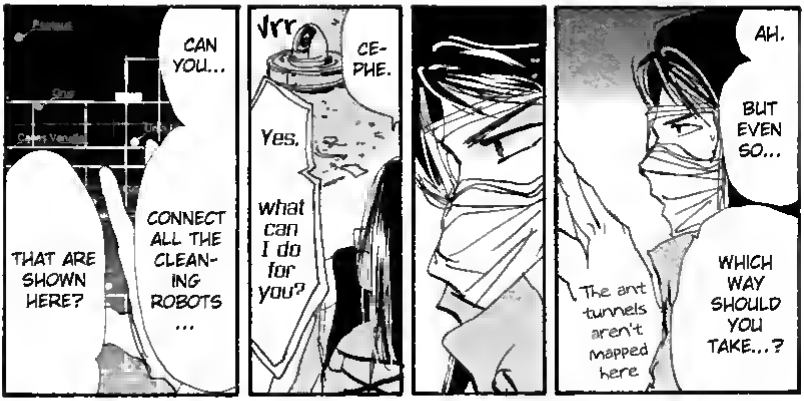
Let's see.
ERIDANUS, CASSIOPEIA, PEGASUS...
Yes.

try to call it by one of these names
Eridanus, Cassiopeia, Pegasus, or Orion

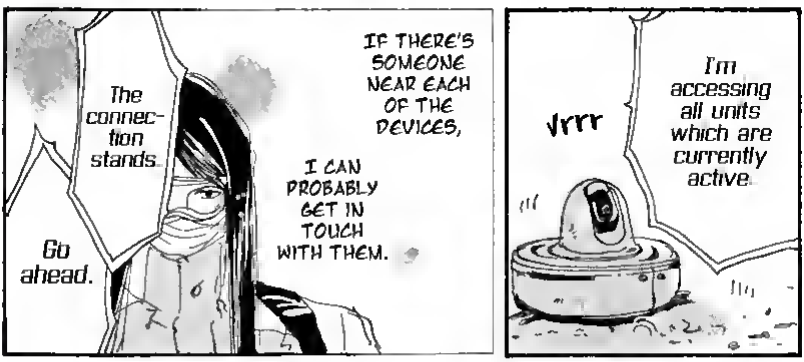

Pegasus
SO, IT'S THIS ONE!
Grus
Triangulum
Venatic
I KNOW YOUR LOCATION.
HOTARU-SAN, YOU'RE AT THIS PLACE.

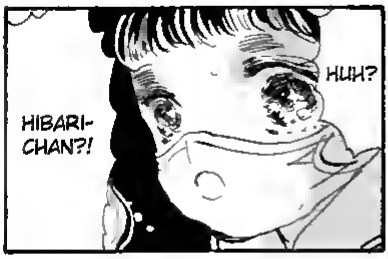
IT'S PEGA-SUS.
I HEARD!


I'm the improved cleaning robot model. DH 15.
I'm called Pega short for Pegasus


CAN YOU...
CONNECT ALL THE CLEANING ROBOTS ...
THAT ARE SHOWN HERE?
Vrr
CE-PHE.
Yes, what can I do for you?
AH.
BUT EVEN SO...
WHICH WAY SHOULD YOU TAKE...?
The ant tunnels aren't mapped here

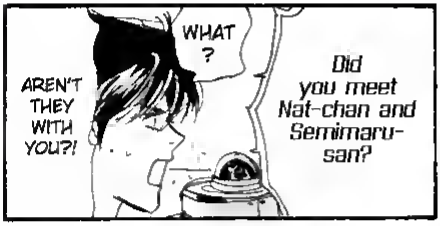
SO THAT WE CAN TALK WITH EACH OTHER FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE.
CONNECT ALL THE CLEANING ROBOTS...

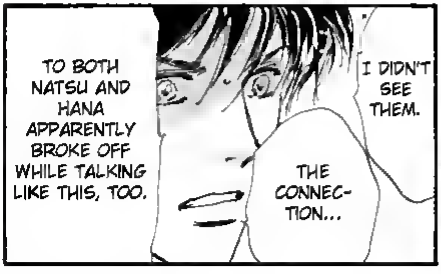

The connection stands.
Go ahead.
IF THERE'S SOMEONE NEAR EACH OF THE DEVICES,
I CAN PROBABLY GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM.
Vrrr
I'm accessing all units which are currently active.


HUH?
HIBARI-CHAN?!

HUH?
HO-TARU-CHAN?

HUM
I told you, I don't know what all this is about.
I was just told by my grandma to establish a connection.


WHAT?
AREN'T THEY WITH YOU?!
Did you meet Nat-chan and Semimaru-san?


TO BOTH NATSU AND HANA APPARENTLY BROKE OFF WHILE TALKING LIKE THIS, TOO.
I DIDN'T SEE THEM.
THE CONNEC-TION...

GET
HUH?
IS THAT YOU, ARA-SHI-KUN?!
HO-TARU-CHAN?!

HUH?
GEN-GORO-KUN?!
His voice is muffled though
HANA-SAN...
IS ALIVE?
HANA?
That's why I told you they were all probably hallucinating.
THANK GOOD-NESS...
Arashi is Hana's boy-friend..
I KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
...
THANK YOU ...!
IN THE RIVER IN THAT CAVE ...?
ARA-SHI,
GEN-GO-RO...
IS THE ONE WHO DOVE TO RESCUE HANA.
Korun-san? Are you in that room with the fire-place?
NO, IT SEEMS WE'VE ALL LOST OUR WAY.

they'll become prey tor those spiders, just like that.
In the worst case,
SPIDERS ?!
IF HANA-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE HALLUCI-NATING...
THEY ARE IN DAN-GER.
YOU CAN BECOME AWARE OF IT YOURSELF.
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN SNAP OUT OF THOSE HALLU-CINATIONS.
RIGHT NOW...
REA-LIZED IT...
YOUR-SELF ...?
I'VE...
ALSO HAD A HALLUCI-NATION.
BUT I REALIZED MYSELF THAT IT WASN'T REAL.
I SAW THE THINGS I LONGED TO SEE.

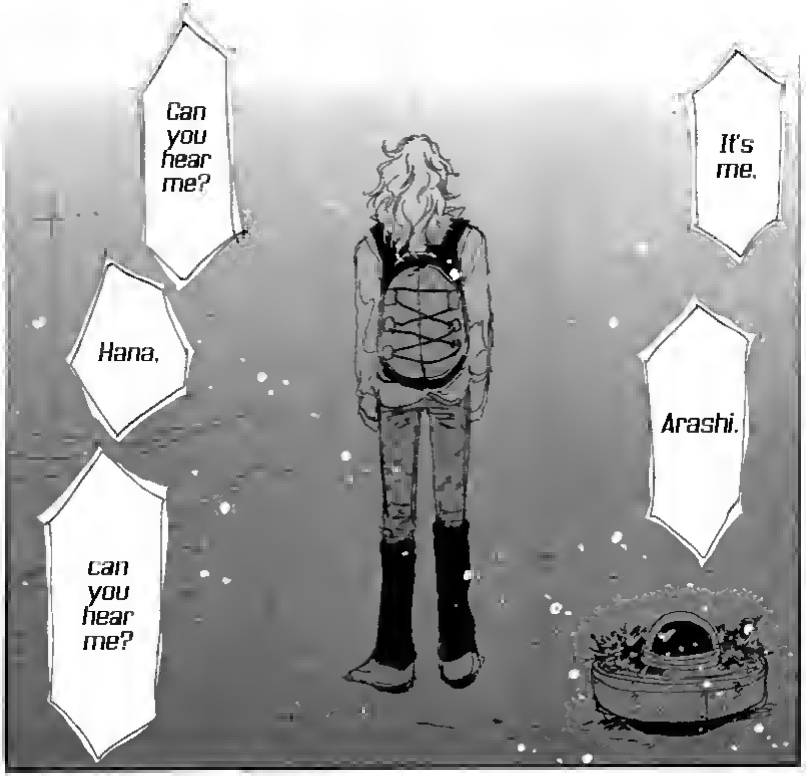
I CAN MAKE ...
YOU MEAN,
MYSELF HEARD TO BOTH...
HANA AND NATSU?

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COM-MUNICATE WITH EVERYONE ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I HAD ALL THE CLEANING ROBOTS CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER.

...HANA.

BUT ...
YOU MAY BE HEARD BY OTHERS, TOO.
IF THEY'RE NEARBY, YES.

SEMI-MARU,
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HANA,
NATSU,



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BUT...
IF YOU'RE HAVING SOME KIND OF HALLUCI-NATION,
ALLEGEDLY YOU'RE IN GRAVE DANGER.
EVEN IF I'M OUT OF EAR-SHOT,
IF YOU CUT THE TRANS-MISSION YOURSELF,
AND MOVED FROM THAT SPOT OF YOUR OWN WILL,
THAT'S STILL PREFER-ABLE.
SO, IF YOU SPOT ANY SPIDERS, BE CAREFUL.
THEY SAY THAT YOU'LL BECOME PREY FOR THE SPIDERS.
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
... HANA,
Hana.
are you there?
Can you hear me?

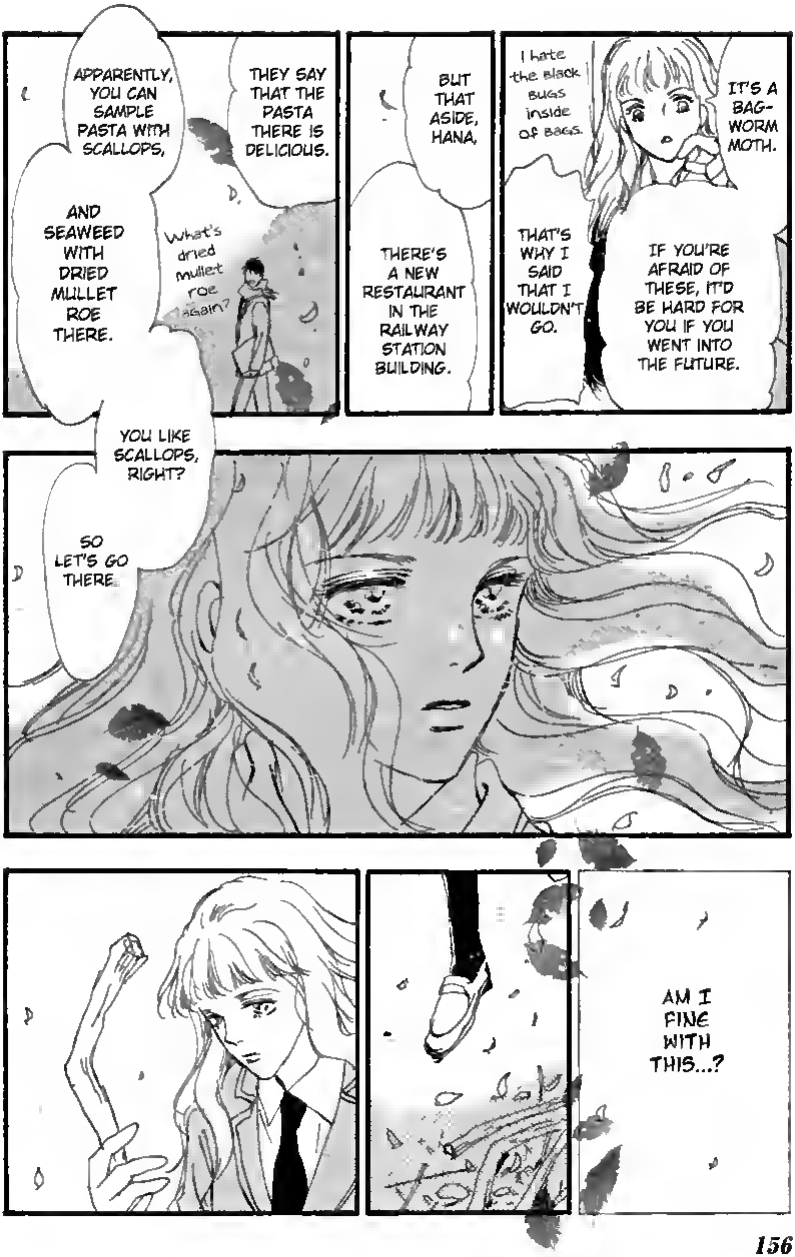
What
do you see right now?

I'VE...
SURVIVED, AND I KEPT WALKING,
SO I'M HERE NOW!
HANA!

HANA,
I'M...
HERE.

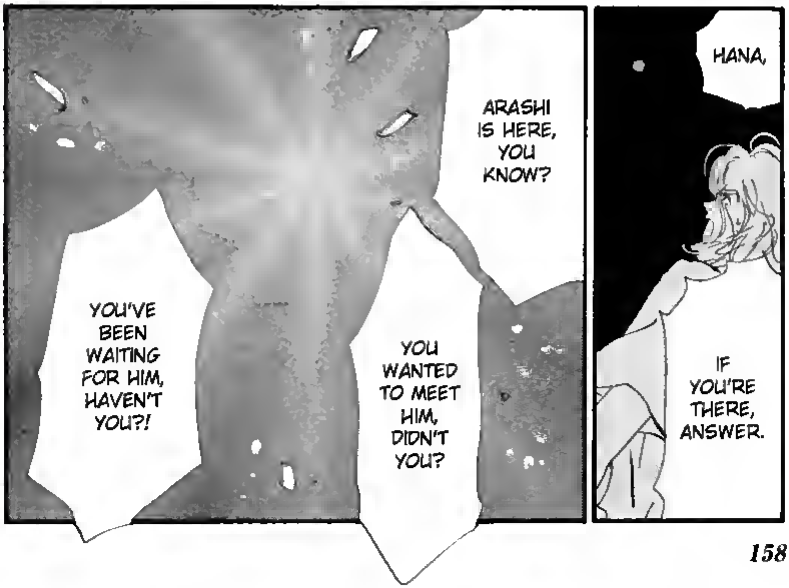
HANA...!
LOOK, THIS...
I can't handle the cold well!
IS THE SCARF YOU GAVE ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY.
IT'S A PRETTY COLOUR, AFTER ALL.
Morning
AH...
YES, I DID. SEVERAL TIMES.
DID YOU JUST CALL ME?
What's wrong?
I ONLY HAVE RED ONES.
WHAT?
BUT THAT LOOKS KIND OF COLD.
LIGHT BLUE WOULD BE NICE.
OKAY.
YEAH.
I WANT A SCARF FOR MY BIRTHDAY, TOO.

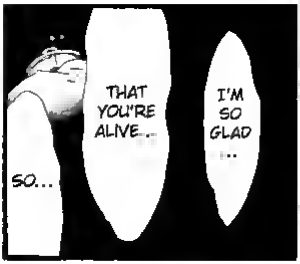
THEY DIDN'T PUT ANY OF IT IN MY BACK-PACK.
Only the book he lent me.
I WONDER IF IT WAS THE SAME FOR YOU, ARASHI...
I DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF THE THINGS HE GAVE ME...
INTO THE FUTURE.
ARASHI AND I...
WOULD OFTEN EXCHANGE PRESENTS ON OUR BIRTHDAYS.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE AGAIN?
YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT IT ALREADY.
IT WAS A VIRTUAL DREAM.
THERE'S SOME BUG!
EEP!
IT FELL DOWN!
TAKE IT AWAY, HANA!
plop
I COULD NEVER GO!
ARASHI, YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE FUTURE?
NOT TO A PLACE WITH THAT MANY BUGS.

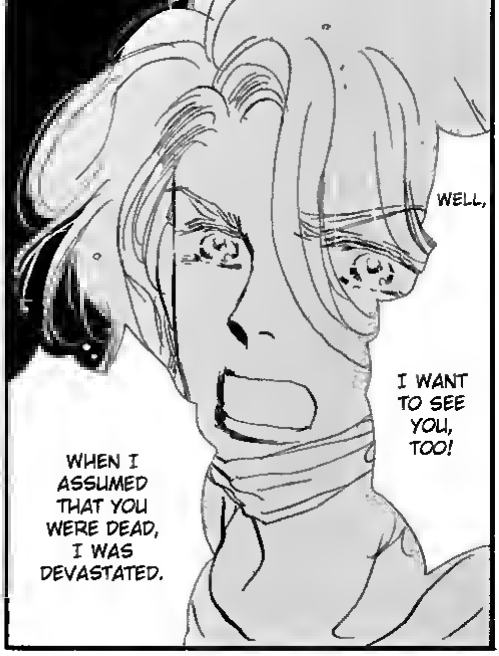

APPARENTLY, YOU CAN SAMPLE PASTA WITH SCALLOPS,
AND SEAWEED WITH DRIED MULLET ROE THERE.
THEY SAY THAT THE PASTA THERE IS DELICIOUS.
What's dried mullet roe again?
YOU LIKE SCALLOPS, RIGHT?
SO LET'S GO THERE.
BUT THAT ASIDE, HANA,
THERE'S A NEW RESTAURANT IN THE RAILWAY STATION BUILDING.
I hate the black bugs inside of bags.
IT'S A BAG-WORM MOTH.
THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT I WOULDN'T GO.
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF THESE, IT'D BE HARD FOR YOU IF YOU WENT INTO THE FUTURE.
AM I FINE WITH THIS...?

whirl
whirl
whirl
Swish
I'M OFF TODAY.
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE.
Finals are just around the corner I should study.
I haven't yet, though.
THE AQUARIUM, MAYBE?
SHALL WE GO TO THE CINEMA ON OUR WAY HOME?
HUH?
DON'T YOU HAVE CLUB ACTIVITIES?
Or go and play some game at home?
HANA,
I THINK IT'D BE BAD IF YOU HIT SOMEONE WITH THAT.
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHY DO I WONDER IF I'M FINE WITH THIS?
AM I FINE WITH THIS...?
WAS THAT IT...?

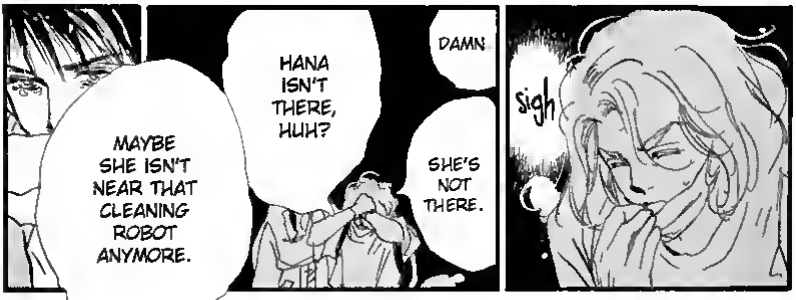
Hey!
HANA!!
I'M SORRY, ARASHI,
BUT I NEED TO INTERFERE.
YOU SEE, HANA...
can be pretty absent-minded and thoughtless.


HANA,
IF YOU'RE THERE, ANSWER.
ARASHI IS HERE, YOU KNOW?
YOU WANTED TO MEET HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?!


SO...
THAT YOU'RE ALIVE...
I'M SO GLAD ...


WHEN I ASSUMED THAT YOU WERE DEAD, I WAS DEVASTATED.
I WANT TO SEE YOU, TOO!
WELL,

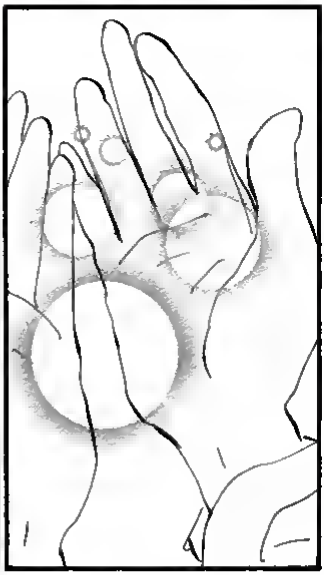
while both of you are still alive!
talk to Arashi properly..


MAYBE SHE ISN'T NEAR THAT CLEANING ROBOT ANYMORE.
HANA ISN'T THERE, HUH?
DAMN
SHE'S NOT THERE.
sigh

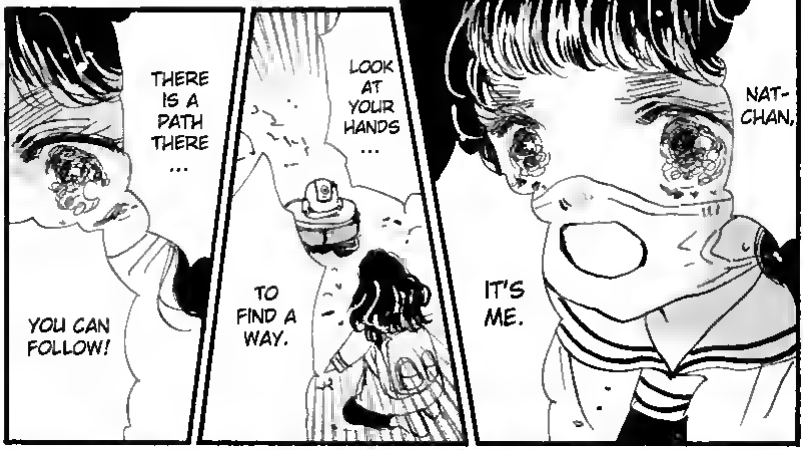
IT'S ME, HOTARU.
vrrr
NAT-CHAN,
SEMI-MARU-SAN,
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ARASHI-KUN,
Sure, Hotaru-chan.
PLEASE LET ME SPEAK, TOO.
WHERE DID SHE GO?
SHE'S NOT THERE?
HANA...
I WAS DRAGGED OFF BY THOSE ANTS,
BUT I'M SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING.
IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, LOOK AT YOUR HANDS.
YOUR HANDS WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY.
Nat-chan,
do you remember when I read your hands?
creak
creak
Are you in trouble?
Nat-chan,
is Semi-maru-san with you?

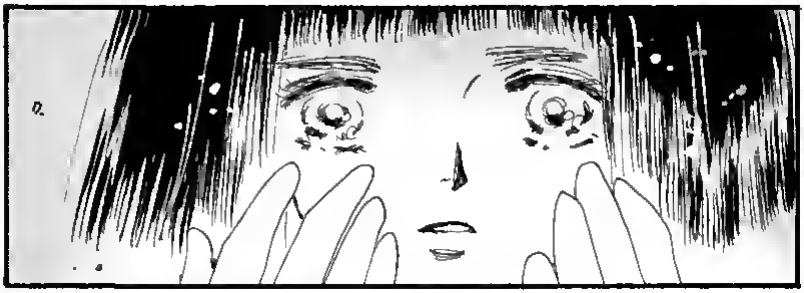
YOUR HANDS...

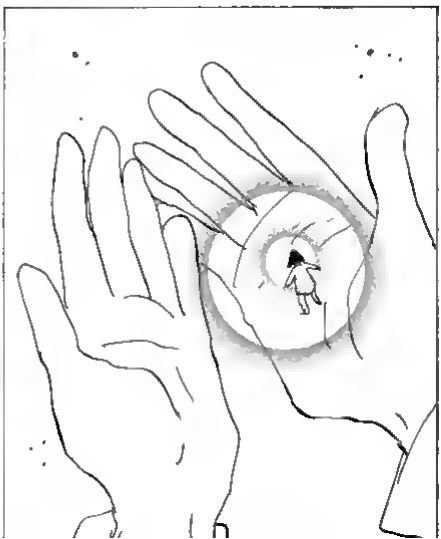
YOU WERE A STARRY-EYED DREAMER.
YOU KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND, AND DO YOUR BEST TO COPE WITH REALITY.
BUT NOW YOU FOCUS ON THE ACTUALITIES.



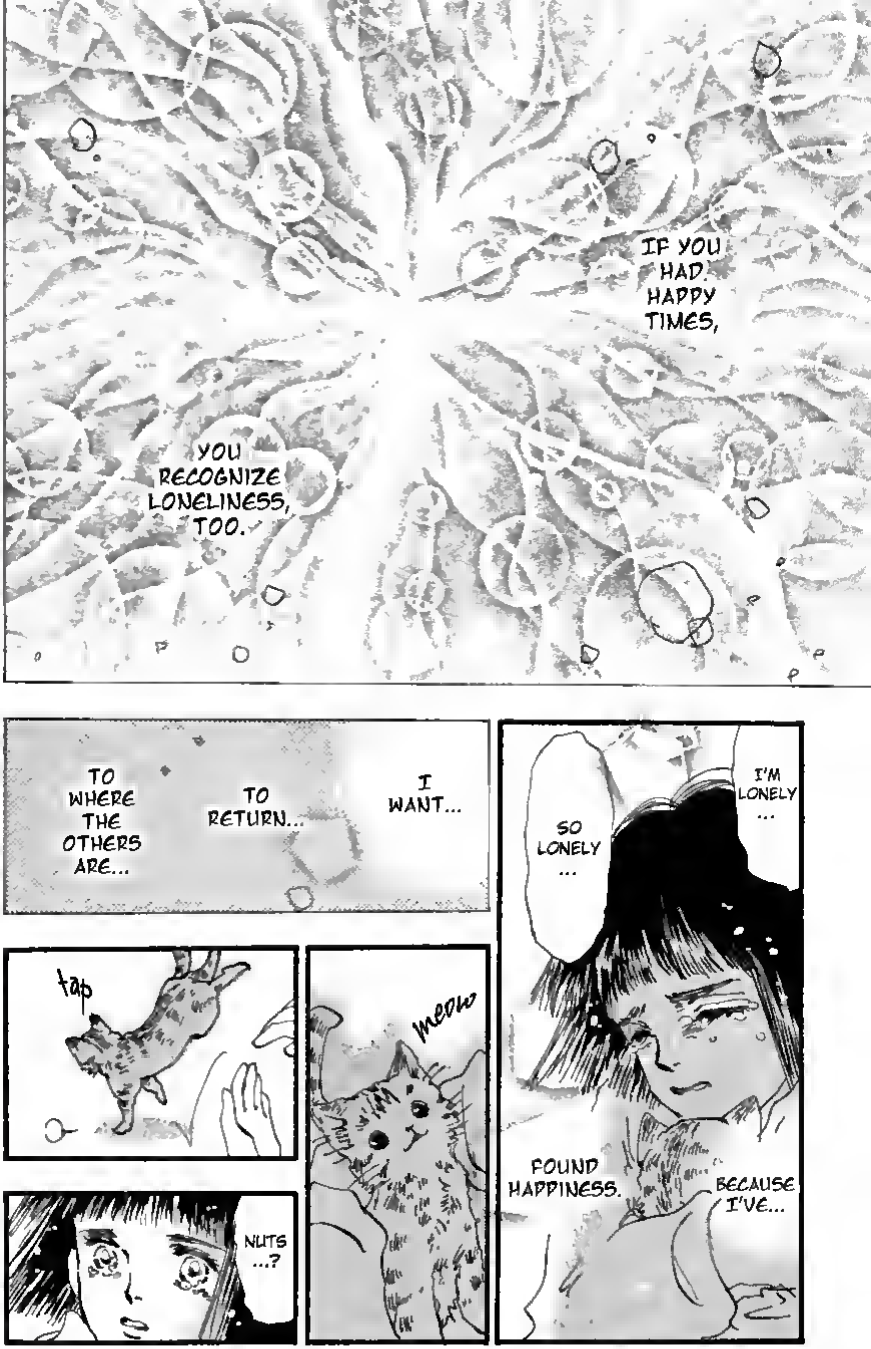
...
NATSU ?!
NO...
I WONDER... IF ALL OF THAT WAS A DREAM.
AM I STILL... MY OLD SELF?
NAT-CHAN?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
YOU'RE THERE, AREN'T YOU?!
NATSU!
ANSWER!
ARE YOU THERE?
ARASHI-KUN...?

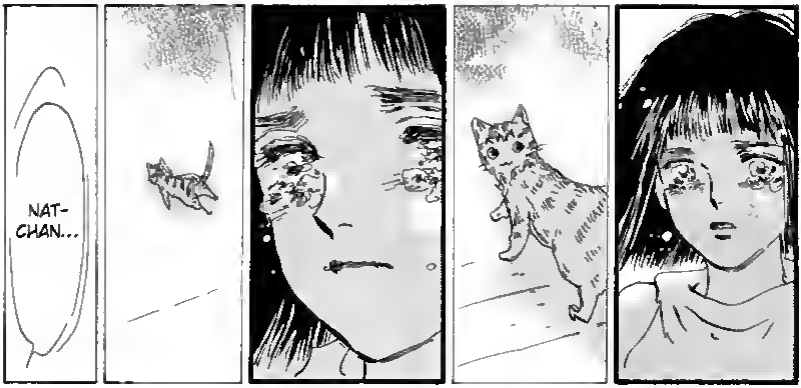

NAT-CHAN,
IT'S ME.
LOOK AT YOUR HANDS ...
TO FIND A WAY.
THERE IS A PATH THERE ...
YOU CAN FOLLOW!

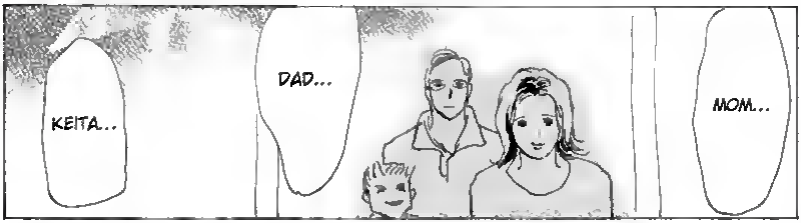


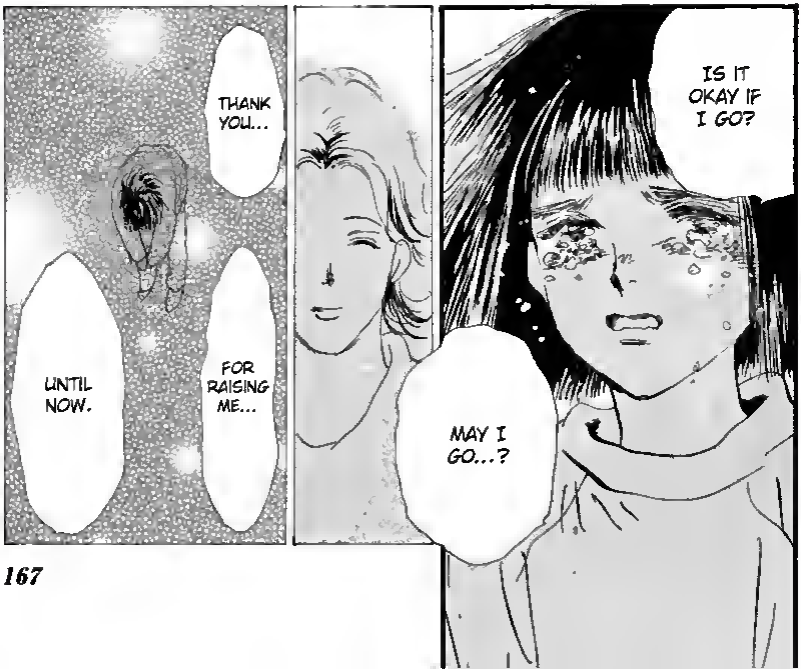


THERE WERE TIMES ...
WHEN I THOUGHT THIS ROOM WAS COZY, TOO.
NOW I KNOW THE REASON WHY.
YOU ONLY FEEL LONELINESS...
WHEN YOU'VE EXPERIENCED HAPPY TIMES BEFORE.
I WAS AFRAID OF OTHER PEOPLE...
AND FELT MORE COMFORT-ABLE ON MY OWN.
I NEVER ONCE FELT LONELY WHEN I WAS ALONE.

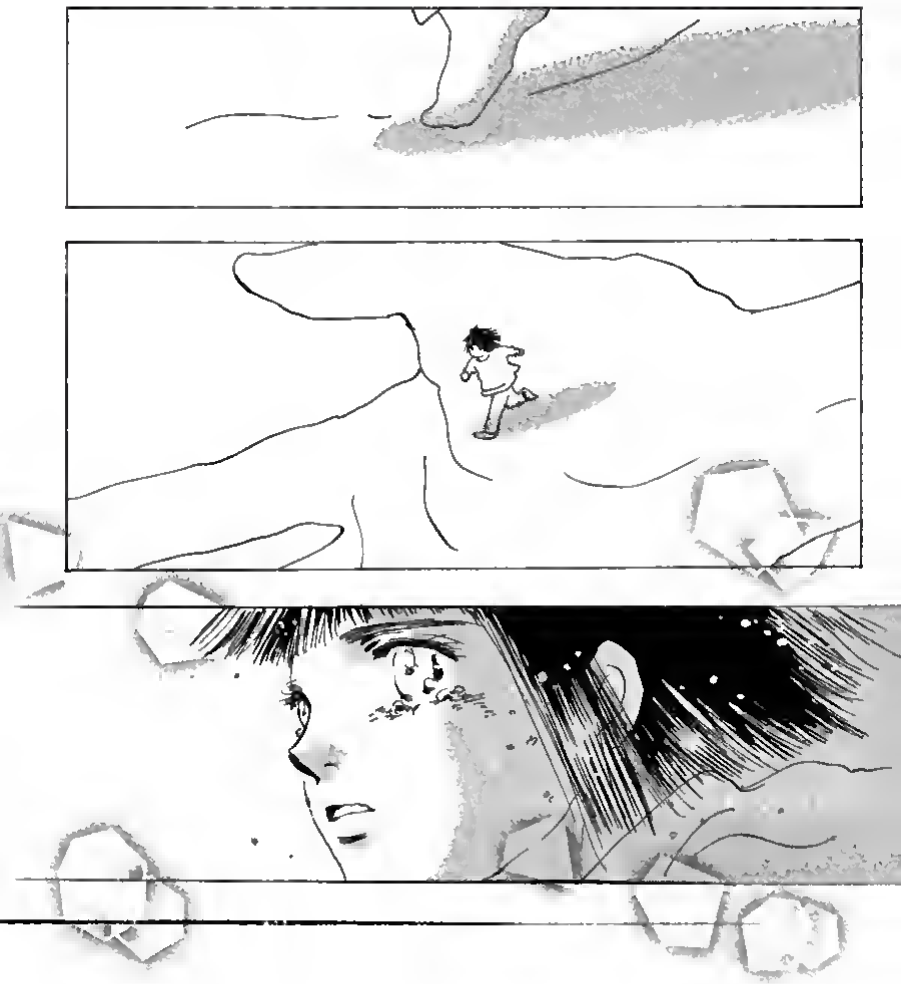

IF YOU HAD HAPPY TIMES,
YOU RECOGNIZE LONELINESS, TOO.
TO WHERE THE OTHERS ARE...
TO RETURN...
I WANT...
tap
meow
NUTS ...?
I'M LONELY ...
SO LONELY ...
FOUND HAPPINESS.
BECAUSE I'VE...


NAT-CHAN...

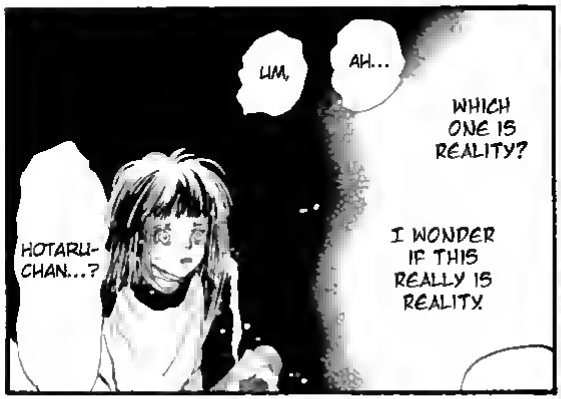

KEITA..
DAD...
MOM...


THANK YOU...
UNTIL NOW.
FOR RAISING ME...
IS IT OKAY IF I GO?
MAY I GO...?

I'LL BE OFF.



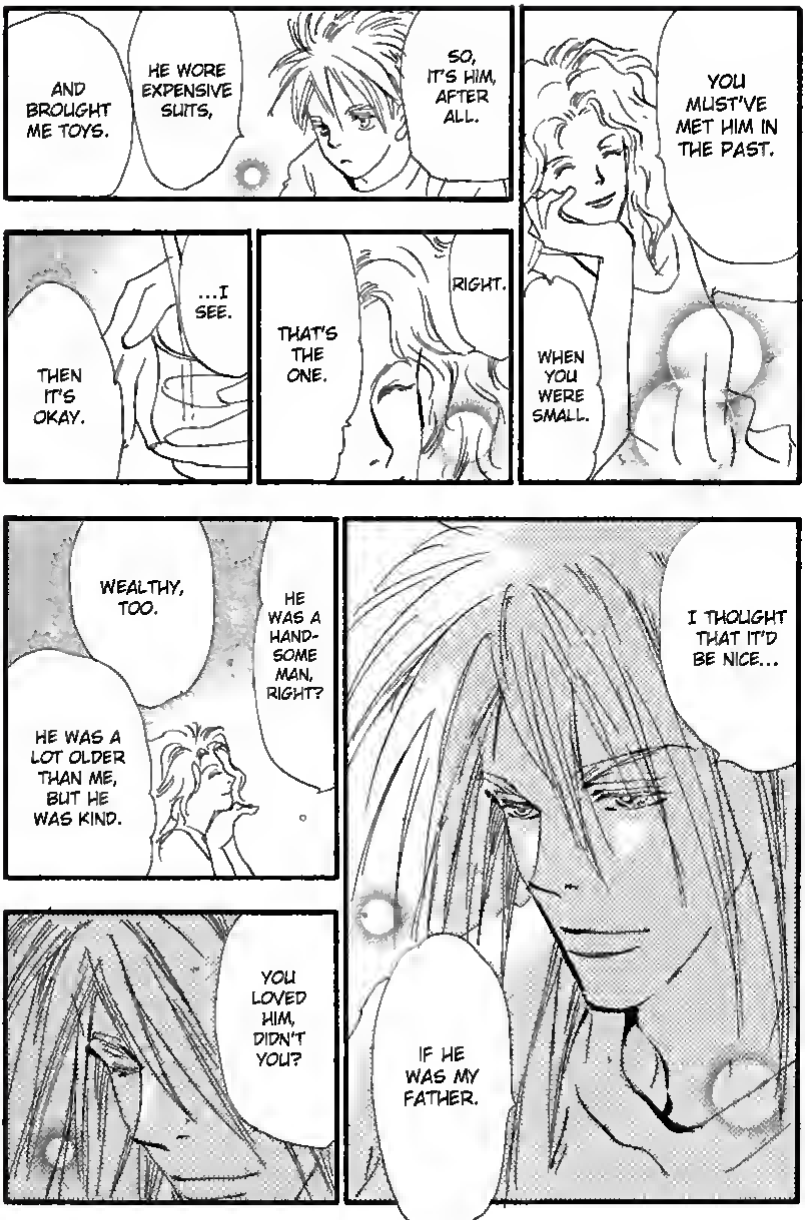
I'M... BACK.

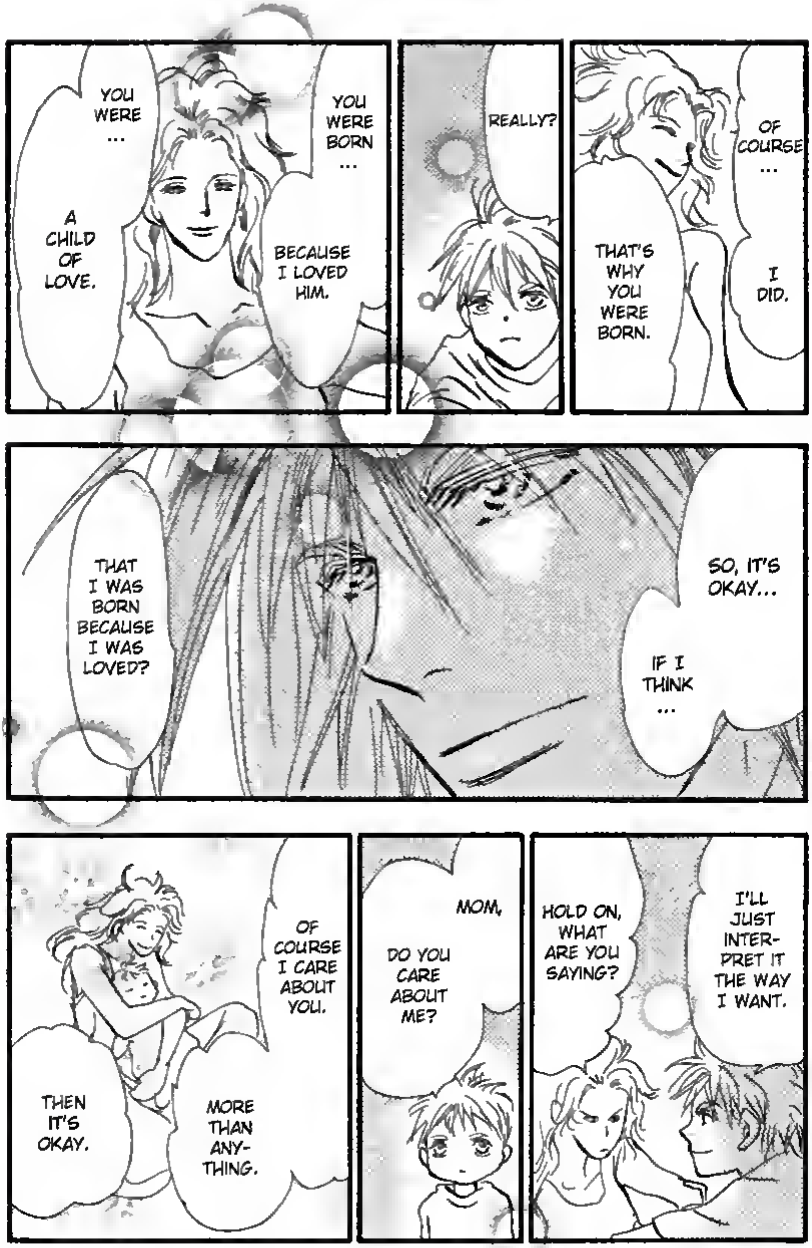

UM,
AH...
WHICH ONE IS REALITY?
I WONDER IF THIS REALLY IS REALITY.
HOTARU-CHAN...?

Vrr

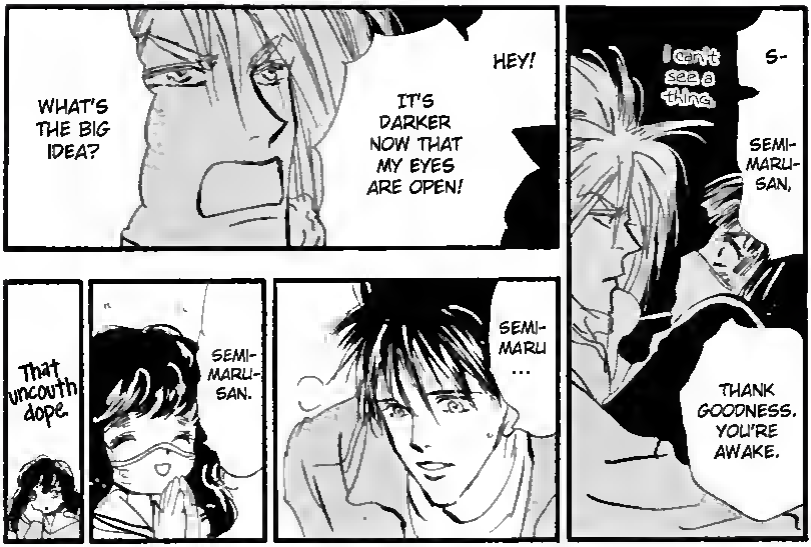
NATSU ...
DID YOU...
HAVE A HALLUCI-NATION?
IT FELT REAL, DIDN'T IT?
So it's like that after all.
HOTA-RU-CHAN ...
THANK GOOD-NESS.
YOU'RE OKAY, TOO...
ARASHI-KUN,
NAT-CHAN?!
NATSU ...
SHOWED ME THE WAY.
HOTARU-CHAN...
YES...
And...
Nat-chan, please put on a mask.
Check your surround-ings for spiders
what about Semi-maru-san?!
THAT'S GREAT
tee hee
tick

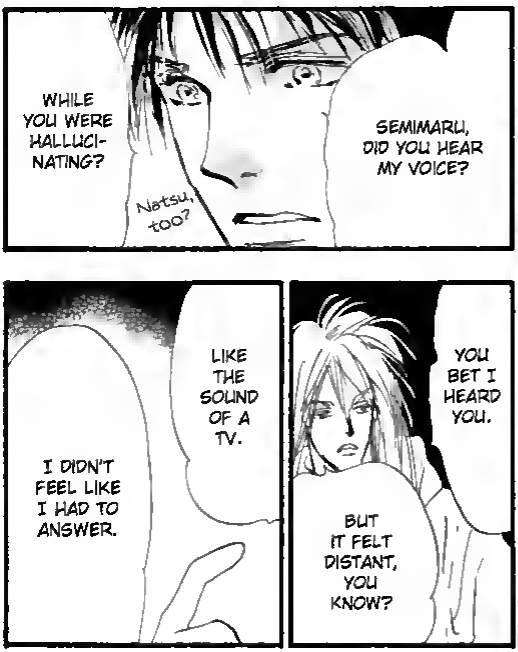
—
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE OUTSIDERS ARE GETTING NOISY.
SHUT UP...
SEMIMARU-SAN, WAKE UP.
SEMI-MARU-SAN.
WHO...
IS MY FATHER?
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S ONE THING...
I'VE BEEN DYING TO ASK YOU.
MOM ...
BECAUSE IT CONCERNS MY IDENTITY.
TELL ME.


YOU MUST'VE MET HIM IN THE PAST.
WHEN YOU WERE SMALL.
SO, IT'S HIM, AFTER ALL.
HE WORE EXPENSIVE SUITS,
AND BROUGHT ME TOYS.
RIGHT.
THAT'S THE ONE.
...I SEE.
THEN IT'S OKAY.
I THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE NICE...
IF HE WAS MY FATHER.
HE WAS A HANDSOME MAN, RIGHT?
WEALTHY, TOO.
HE WAS A LOT OLDER THAN ME, BUT HE WAS KIND.
YOU LOVED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?


YOU WERE ...
A CHILD OF LOVE.
YOU WERE BORN ...
BECAUSE I LOVED HIM.
REALLY?
OF COURSE ...
I DID.
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE BORN.
THAT I WAS BORN BECAUSE I WAS LOVED?
SO, IT'S OKAY...
IF I THINK ...
OF COURSE I CARE ABOUT YOU.
MORE THAN ANY-THING.
THEN IT'S OKAY.
MOM,
DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME?
HOLD ON, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'LL JUST INTER-PRET IT THE WAY I WANT.

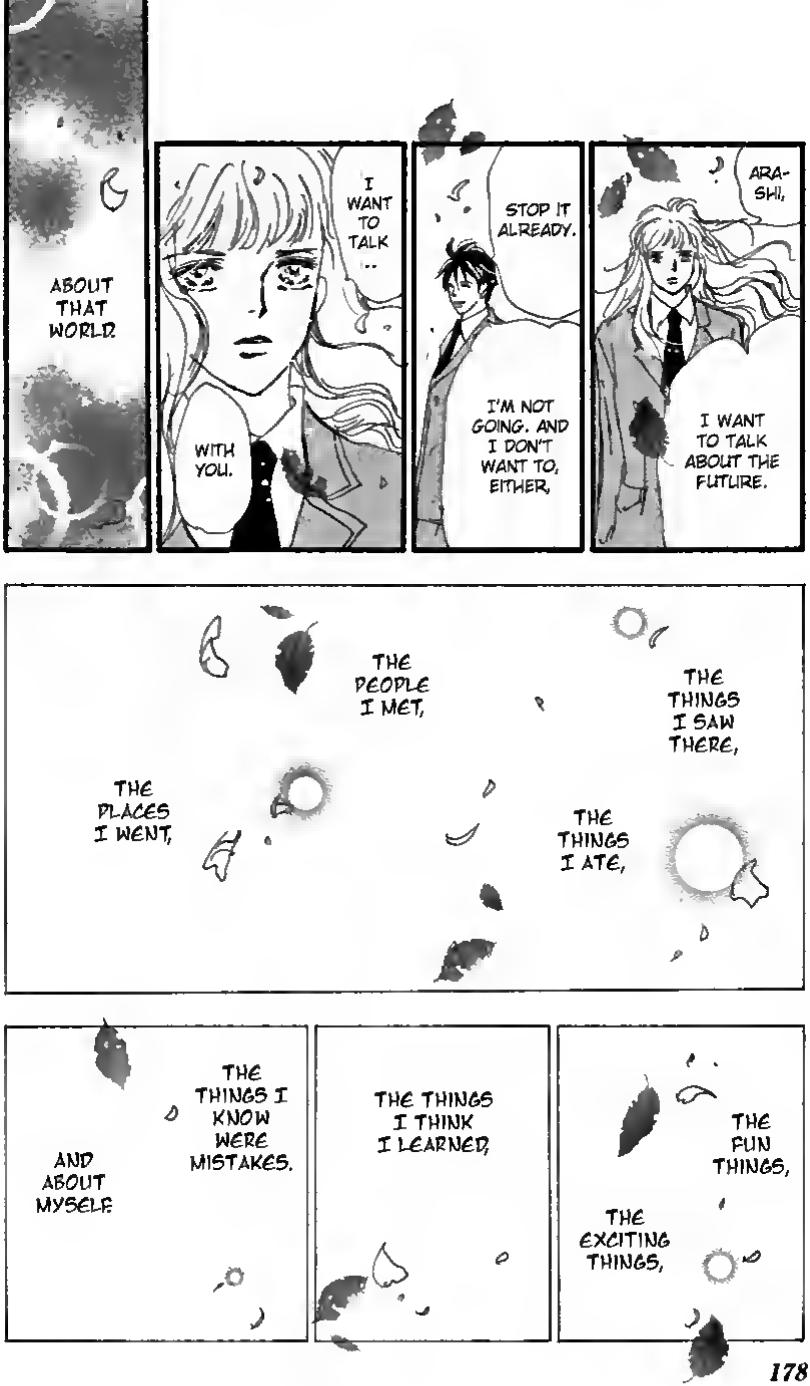
SEE YOU, MOM.
THEN IT'S OKAY.
FAREWELL.
SEMI-MARU-SAN!
hug


WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
IT'S DARKER NOW THAT MY EYES ARE OPEN!
HEY!
I can't see a thing.
S-
SEMI-MARU-SAN,
THANK GOODNESS. YOU'RE AWAKE.
That uncouth dope.
SEMI-MARU-SAN.
SEMI-MARU ...


WHILE YOU WERE HALLUCI-NATING?
Natsu, too?
SEMIMARU, DID YOU HEAR MY VOICE?
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I HAD TO ANSWER.
LIKE THE SOUND OF A TV.
BUT IT FELT DISTANT, YOU KNOW?
YOU BET I HEARD YOU.

Vrrr
MAN, YOU JUST WOULDN'T SHUT UP.
Arashi, you're so noisy I'm glad about Hotaru, though.
Gah!
WHAT'S WITH THIS TOY?
Is it a Yotterman?

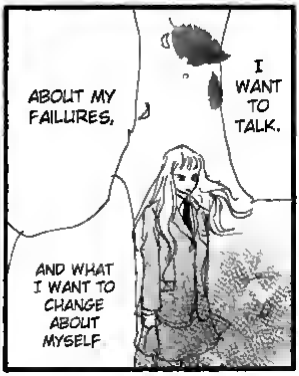
They were able to snap out of it themselves
You can do it too, Hana
LISTEN CLOSELY.
LISTEN
NATSU AND SEMIMARU CAME BACK.
SHE'S PROBABLY HALLUCINATING AFTER ALL...!
Hana!
YOU HEARD ME BUT YOU COULDN'T RESPOND?
What the heck?
SO MAYBE THE SAME APPLIES TO HANA.
THE ONLY WAY IS TO REALIZE IT YOURSELF.
SHE'S MEETING THE PEOPLE SHE LONGED TO SEE.
I THINK THAT SHE'S AT A PLACE WHERE SHE'S HAPPY.
SO COME BACK.
...I WANT TO SEE YOU.
NOT IN A HALLUCINATION.
HANA,
I WANT TO MEET YOU, TOO.
NOT REAL.
THAT IT'S...


ABOUT THAT WORLD
I WANT TO TALK ...
WITH YOU.
STOP IT ALREADY.
I'M NOT GOING. AND I DON'T WANT TO, EITHER.
ARA-SHI,
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
THE PEOPLE I MET,
THE THINGS I SAW THERE,
THE PLACES I WENT,
THE THINGS I ATE,
AND ABOUT MYSELF
THE THINGS I KNOW WERE MISTAKES.
THE THINGS I THINK I LEARNED,
THE FUN THINGS,
THE EXCITING THINGS,

AND HOW I WAS HURT.
ABOUT HOW I HURT OTHERS.

YOU'RE OKAY THE WAY YOU ARE.
I WANT YOU TO BE YOUR-SELF.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE AT ALL.

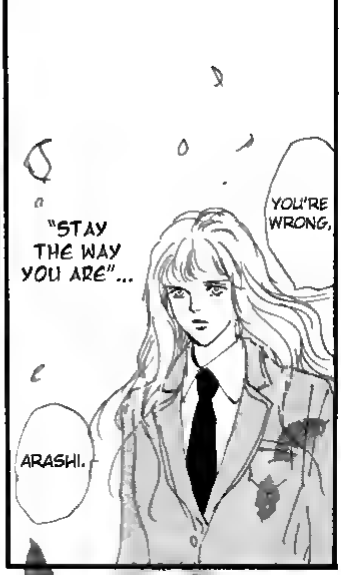
HANA ...

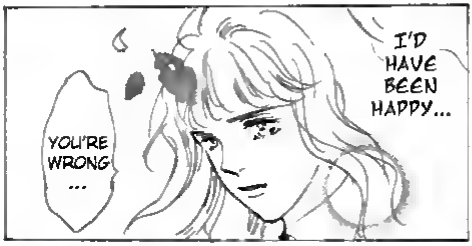

I WANT TO TALK.
ABOUT MY FAILURES,
AND WHAT I WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT MYSELF

STOP TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE.
LET'S GO SOME-WHERE AND HAVE FUN.

I LOVE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE.
SO DON'T CHANGE.

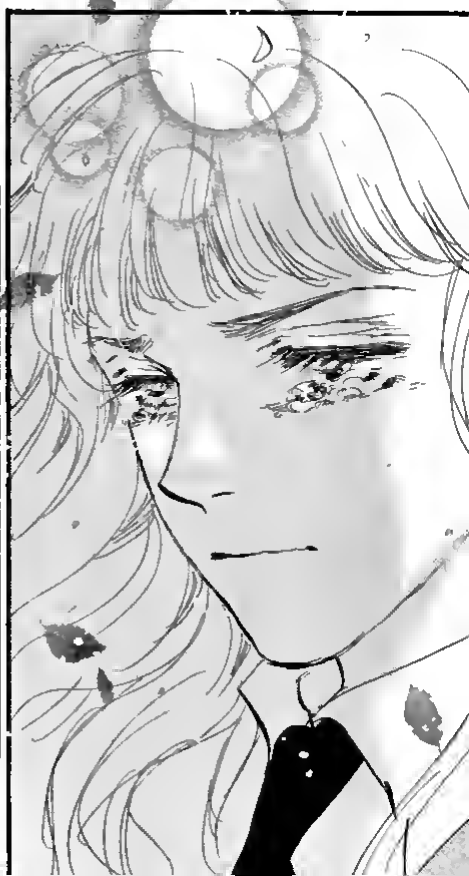
IF SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT IN THE PAST...
HANA?


"STAY THE WAY YOU ARE"...
YOU'RE WRONG.
ARASHI.


I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY...
YOU'RE WRONG ...

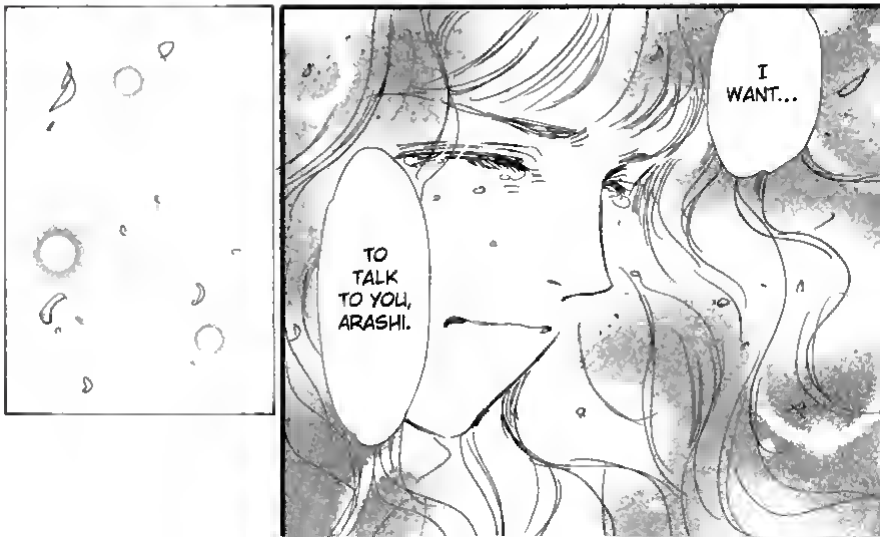
HANA?

HANA,
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT...
WHEN WE MEET AGAIN.

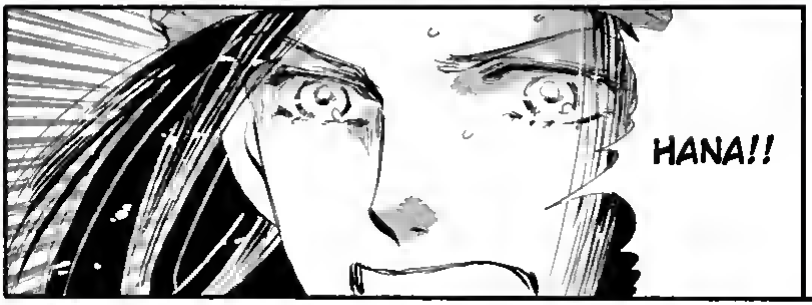


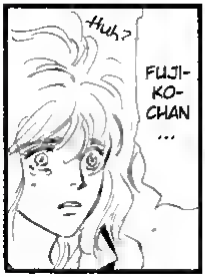
I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT ALL THOSE THINGS, HANA.
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF THINGS SINCE I CAME HERE.
I GUESS THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.
WHO WENT INTO THE FUTURE.
I WANT TO TALK WITH THE ARASHI...
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
IS IT THE SAME FOR YOU, HANA?
THERE ARE PEOPLE I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO.
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO ME HAS MULTIPLIED.

I WANT TO SEE YOU, HANA...
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
ARASHI-KUN.


I WANT...
TO TALK TO YOU, ARASHI.

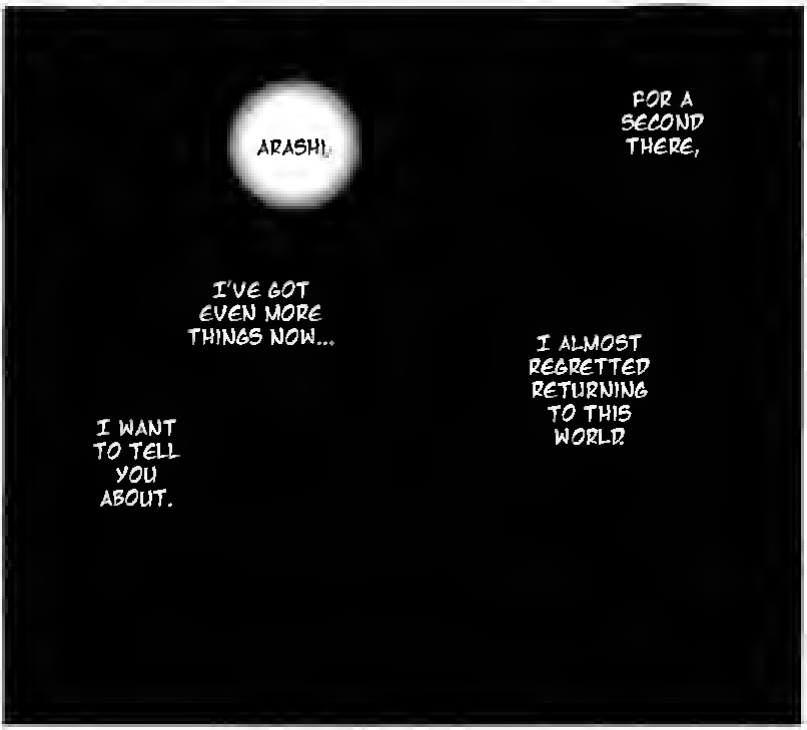
FARE-
WELL
...
HANA
...
FARE-
WELL.
SEE
YOU
AGAIN
IN THE
FUTURE.
FAREWELL...
FAREWELL.


HANA!!


Huh?
FUJI-KO-CHAN ...

stomp
HANA!
stomp

BEHIND YOU!



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